

Year	Event
1900	Daimler cars develop a new brand using the name Mercedes, that of the ten-year-old daughter of the investor and distributor Emil Jellinek
	Giacomo Puccini's <i>Tosca</i> brings in the new century with a January premiere in Rome
	The faction founded in Bohemia by Tomas Masaryk becomes known as the Progressive party
	Isadora Duncan dances professionally for the first time in Europe in London's Lyceum Theatre
	Paul Kruger flees after the British take Pretoria and annexe both the Boer republics
	Puerto Ricans are granted limited democracy in a bill of rights introduced after two years of US military occupation
	Frank Baum introduces children to Oz, in his book <i>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</i>
	Scottish music-hall artist Harry Lauder makes his first London appearance at Gatti's music hall in Westminster
	David Belasco's play <i>Madame Butterfly</i> has its premiere in New York, and is subsequently seen in London by Giacomo Puccini
	The Conservatives win an increased majority during the Boer War, in what becomes known as the 'khaki election'
	Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his wife exhibit together at the Sezession show in Vienna
	Enrique Granados completes the ten piano pieces forming his <i>Danzas españolas</i>

Keir Hardie is returned to parliament for Merthyr Tydfil, beginning a long and close link between the Labour party and Wales.

The relief of Mafeking ends a long siege which brings fame to the British commander of the garrison, Robert Baden-Powell

Rubber brings prosperity to Manaus, thousands of miles up the Amazon

After a prodigiously productive career as novelist and journalist, Stephen Crane dies of tuberculosis at the age of 28

Hostility to foreign intrusion erupts in China with the Boxer Rising

Harvey Firestone sets up the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in Akron, Ohio

Joshua Slocum publishes *Sailing Alone Around the World*, an account of his famous 1895-8 circumnavigation

The Bayer company in Germany sells aspirin in the form of water-soluble tablets, the first medication of its kind

Ferdinand Zeppelin's first dirigible makes its test flight from a floating hangar on the Lake of Constance

Charles Stewart Rolls wins the Automobile Club's Thousand Mile Trial in a 12 horse-power Panhard

Jack London's first collection of stories, *The Son of the Wolf*, brings him a wide readership

The British government assumes direct responsibility for the entire region of Nigeria, previously entrusted to a commercial company

Jean Sibelius's *Finlandia* stirs national instincts in Helsinki

Theodore Dreiser's first novel, *Sister Carrie*, receives no publicity because his publisher, Frank Doubleday, considers it immoral

Sigmund Freud publishes one of his most significant works, *The Interpretation of Dreams*

Australia's Salvation Army produces an ambitious presentation of film and slides in *Soldiers of the Cross*

The Irish Parliamentary Party, which split after the Parnell divorce case, reunites under the leadership of John Redmond

More than 8000 people die when a hurricane demolishes the seaside resort of Galveston in Texas

The American League emerges from baseball's Western League, before going national in 1901

The Voice of the People is the first of Ellen Glasgow's novels set in her native state, Virginia

Anton Chekhov's play *Uncle Vanya* is directed by Stanislavsky at the Moscow Art Theatre

Wilbur and Orville Wright test a biplane glider at Kitty Hawk in North Carolina

In the US presidential election William McKinley wins a second term on a simple platform, promising 'the full dinner pail'

Edward Elgar writes the oratorio *Dream of Gerontius*, setting Cardinal Newman's poem of the same title

Gustave Charpentier's opera *Louise* has Paris premiere at the Opéra-Comique

German physicist Max Planck proposes the revolutionary concept of the quantum theory

Lenin and comrades launch in Munich a radical newspaper, *Iskra* ('the spark')

Joseph Conrad publishes his novel *Lord Jim* about a life of failure and redemption in the far East

Humbert I, the king of Italy, is assassinated by an Italian-American anarchist, Gaetano Bresci

The Welsh painter Augustus John becomes Britain's most famous bohemian

The Russian physiologist Ivan Pavlov keeps dogs alive almost indefinitely by severely curtailing their bodily functions

1901

Six separate Australian colonies combine to form the independent Commonwealth of Australia

Queen Victoria dies at Osborne House, on the Isle of Wight, after 63 years on the throne

Edward VII is already 59 when he succeeds his mother, Victoria, as Britain's monarch

Vast crowds line the streets for the Milan funeral of a national hero, the 87-year-old composer Giuseppe Verdi

Thousands of women and children die in the concentration camps used by the British army for displaced Boer families

Photographer Eadweard Muybridge extends the range of his studies with *Human Figure in*

Motion

Rusalka, by the Czech composer Anton Dvorák, is performed in Prague

Thomas Mann's first novel, *Buddenbrooks*, brings him immediate success

A stele is found at Susa, in Iran, giving the text of the Code of Hammurabi

Charles Voysey completes a house for himself, The Orchard, at Chorley Wood in Hertfordshire

Beatrix Potter publishes at her own expense *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*

Ransome Eli Olds manufactures the Curved Dash Oldsmobile on assembly line principles in Detroit

The concept of instant coffee is developed in Chicago by the Japanese American chemist Satori Kato

Rudyard Kipling's experiences of India are put to good use in his novel *Kim*

A change of palette by Pablo Picasso takes him into what becomes known as his Blue Period

The British batsman C.B. Fry hits a record six consecutive centuries in first-class cricket

Frank Lloyd Wright designs low residential buildings, suitable for the plains around Chicago, and calls them Prairie Houses

The Austrian biochemist Karl Landsteiner discovers that human blood is of varying types

The first of Edward Elgar's five *Pomp and Circumstance* marches has a trio section that becomes "Land of Hope and Glory"

Sergei Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto gives him renewed confidence after the disaster of his First Symphony in 1897

The Texas oil industry is launched with the discovery of the 75,000-barrel-a-day Lucas Gusher near Beaumont

Frederick Delius completes his opera *A Village Romeo and Juliet*, but it is not performed until 1907 in Berlin

Charles Rennie Mackintosh designs the interior of Miss Cranston's Ingram Street Tea Rooms in Glasgow

Anton Chekhov's *Three Sisters* has its premiere at the Moscow Art Theatre, directed by Stanislavsky

Robert Falcon Scott sets off in the *Discovery* on his first expedition to the Antarctic

Australia passes an Immigration Restriction Act to underpin the White Australia policy

Frank Norris publishes *The Octopus*, the first of a projected trilogy of novels set in Southern California

President McKinley is assassinated by an anarchist when visiting the Pan-American exhibition in Buffalo

Vice President Theodore Roosevelt becomes US president on McKinley's death

The 1901 census reveals that the population of the United Kingdom has almost doubled in 50 years, to 38 million

Frank Hornby begins to market in Britain his immensely successful Meccano kits

Guglielmo Marconi transmits a radio message in Morse code 2100 miles, from Poldhu in Cornwall to St John's in Newfoundland

1902

Edith Wharton's publishes her first full-length novel, *The Valley of Decision*

Ebenezer Howard republishes his earlier book of 1898 as *Garden Cities of Tomorrow*

Venezuela defaults on European interest payments and is soon threatened by British, German and Italian warships

Rudyard Kipling publishes his *Just So Stories for Little Children*

US philosopher William James publishes his influential book *The Varieties of Religious Experience*

In his pamphlet *What is to be done?* Lenin argues for early action to promote revolution

Alfred Stieglitz and other US photographers launch the Photo-Secession movement

Helen Keller's *The Story of My Life* begins publication in serial form

French automobile pioneer Leon Serpollet sets a new land speed record, driving a steam car at 75 mph along the Promenade des Anglais in Nice

North Carolina pharmacist Caleb Bradham launches the Pepsi-Cola company in a back room of his shop

A.E. Kennelly and Oliver Heaviside independently see the link between the atmosphere and

the behaviour of radio waves

The play *Cathleen ni Houlihan*, by W.B. Yeats and Lady Gregory, fosters Irish nationalism

The US Congress makes the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 permanent, without the need for ten-year renewals

Cuba becomes independent after three years of US military rule, with certain restrictions imposed by the Platt Amendment of 1901

A treaty at Vereeniging ends the Boer War and brings the Boer republics under British control

Charles Pathé develops film facilities capable of mass production, in Vincennes near Paris

Irish politician Arthur Griffith launches Sinn Féin, as an organization campaigning for a strong and independent Ireland

After the defeat of neighbouring Transvaal in the Boer War, the British take sole control of Swaziland

'Land of Hope and Glory' features in its lasting form as the finale of Elgar's *Coronation Ode* for Edward VII

The three-year Philippine-American War is brought to an end, and the Philippines become a US colony

The Tale of Peter Rabbit is published commercially, a year after being first printed by Beatrix Potter at her own expense

Lord Salisbury resigns as British prime minister and is succeeded by his nephew, A.J. Balfour

The sculptor Aristide Maillol has his first one-man exhibition, at the Galerie Vollard in Paris

Augustus John meets his favourite subject Dorothy McNeill, to whom he gives the Gypsy name Dorelia

John Masefield's poem 'Sea Fever' is published in *Salt-Water Ballads*

Hughie Cannon writes 'Bill Bailey Won't You Please Come Home' for a minstrel, John Queen

Maxim Gorky's play *The Lower Depths* is performed at the Moscow Art Theatre

Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles* begins publication in serial form

W.B. Yeats heads a group of writers and directors in establishing the Irish National Theatre Society

Claude Debussy's opera *Pelléas et Mélisande* has its premiere in Paris

Henry James publishes the first of his three last novels, *The Wings of the Dove*

French film pioneer Georges Méliès uses trick effects for his film *Journey to the Moon*

Gustav Mahler marries Alma, daughter of the artist Emil Jakob Schindler

The tenor Enrico Caruso cuts his first phonograph records in Milan, beginning an immensely successful recording career

William K. Vanderbilt drives the first internal-combustion car to win the land speed record,

at 76 mph at Ablis in France

Brooklyn shopkeepers Morris and Rose Michtom have a huge success with their presidential 'Teddy's Bear'

The first Aswan dam, at this time the world's largest, is completed on the Nile

Joseph Conrad publishes a collection of stories including *Heart of Darkness*, a sinister tale based partly on his own journey up the Congo

The English painter G.F. Watts is made a founding member of the Order of Merit

1903

The Wizard of Oz, based on the book by Frank Baum, opens on Broadway as a musical to huge success

Cuba is forced to accept a permanent US military presence in Guantanamo Bay

US author Jack London publishes a novel, *The Call of the Wild*, in which a huge pet dog has alarming adventures

Lenin's supporters become known as the Bolsheviks ('majority') as opposed to the Mensheviks ('minority') after a split at the party's Second Congress

German surgeon Georg Clemens Perthes discovers, in Leipzig, that X-rays can inhibit cancer

Sibelius writes *Valse Triste* as incidental music to a play, *Kuolema*, by his brother-in-law Arvid Järnefelt

Gertrude Stein leaves the USA to share with her brother an apartment in Paris that soon becomes a literary and artistic salon

Emmeline Pankhurst founds the Women's Social and Political Union to fight for women's

political rights in the UK

José Batlle is elected president of Uruguay and proves to be a visionary politician

Erskine Childers has a best-seller in *The Riddle of the Sands*, a thriller about a planned German invasion of Britain

King Alexander and Queen Draga of Serbia are murdered in their palace by army officers

In a paper to a congress in Madrid, on the 'psychology and psychopathology of animals', Ivan Pavlov announces his discovery of the conditioned reflex

Henry James publishes *The Ambassadors*, the second of his three last novels written in rapid succession

Ernest Rutherford and Frederick Soddy identify the phenomenon of radioactive half-life

Edward VII, the first British monarch to travel to India, holds a great coronation *darbar* in Delhi

Roger Casement, British consul in the Congo Free State, discovers appalling abuses by Belgian companies

Edwin S. Porter directs *The Great Train Robbery*, providing a big commercial success for Thomas Edison's film company

Giuseppe Sarto is elected pope and takes the name Pius X

British philosopher G.E. Moore publishes *Principia Ethica*, an attempt to apply logic to ethics

A US warship appears off the coast of Panama in support of rebels declaring an

independent republic

Maurice Ravel sets to music romantic oriental poems by Tristan Klingsor in his song-cycle *Shéhérazade*

The Colombian government rejects the Hay-Herrán treaty with the US on the Panama canal, thus prompting the break-away of Panama

William Harley and three Davidson brothers begin the commercial production in Milwaukee of motorcycles, but complete only three by the end of the year

US author W.E.B. Du Bois publishes his first collection of essays, *The Souls of Black Folk*

Dutch physiologist Willem Einthoven invents the galvanometer, or electrocardiograph, for recording the electrical impulses within the heart muscle

The Pit, the second volume of an uncompleted trilogy by US novelist Frank Norris, is published posthumously

The first World Series is played between nine leading baseball teams from the National League and the American League

Britain's first national motor show is organized at the Crystal Palace, moving two years later to Olympia

Charles Rennie Mackintosh completes the Willow Tea Rooms in Glasgow for Miss Cranston

The USA is granted exclusive control in perpetuity of a ten-mile corridor across Panama, suitable for a canal

Italian tenor Enrico Caruso makes his US debut at the New York Metropolitan Opera

Work begins on England's first garden city, at Letchworth, based on the theories of Ebenezer Howard

Orville Wright travels 40 yards in the first successful powered flight, at Kitty Hawk in North Carolina

The annual Prix Goncourt is established in France, in accordance with the will of Edmond de Goncourt

1904

Anton Chekhov's last play, *The Cherry Orchard*, is staged by Stanislavsky just a few months before the author's death

Leos Janacek's opera *Jenufa*, based on a play by Gabriela Preissová, has its premiere in Brno

Finnish architect Gottlieb Eliel Saarinen wins the competition to build Helsinki's railway station

J.M. Synge's play *Riders to the Sea* has its premiere at the Molesworth Hall in Dublin

Charles Stewart Rolls, a keen driver, meets electrical engineer Henry Royce in a historic encounter in Manchester

A violent uprising by Herero warriors in South West Africa targets male Germans of military age

Giacomo Puccini's opera *Madama Butterfly* falls victim at La Scala to claque paid for by rivals

A surprise Japanese attack on Russian warships in Port Arthur launches the Russo-Japanese War for influence in Far East

John Christian Watson becomes Australia's first Labor prime minister, leading a minority

government that survives for only four months

Joseph Conrad publishes his novel *Nostromo*, about a revolution in South America and a fatal horde of silver

France and Britain sign an Entente Cordiale, resolving several colonial disputes and laying the foundation for a new alliance

Helen Keller overcomes deafness and blindness to graduate *cum laude* at Radcliffe College in the USA

The German general Lothar von Trotha drives 8000 Herrero people to slow death in the Kalahari desert

Henry James publishes his last completed novel, *The Golden Bowl*

An observatory with a 100-inch reflecting telescope is set up by George Ellery Hale on Mount Wilson in California

Constantine Cavafy prints fourteen of his poems in a pamphlet for private distribution

The US consul in Mexico, Edward Herbert Thompson, begins a very profitable excavation at the Mayan site of Chichén Itzá

Austrian psychologist Sigmund Freud publishes *The Psychopathology of Everyday Life*

Hughie Cannon writes the music and words for the song originally titled "He Done Me Wrong" in the US musical *Frankie and Johnny*

British troops under Francis Younghusband enter Tibet's holy city of Lhasa

The publisher Walter Blackie moves into Hill House at Helensburgh, designed for him by

Charles Rennie Mackintosh

J.M Barrie's play for children *Peter Pan, or the Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up* has its premiere in London

Alban Berg and Anton Webern study composition with Arnold Schoenberg in Vienna

Alexander Scriabin completes his Third Symphony, *The Divine Poem*, which is given its first performance in Paris in 1905

US architect Louis Sullivan completes the Schlesinger & Meyer Store (later known as the Carson, Pirie & Scott Store) in Chicago

Theodore Roosevelt wins the US presidential election in his own right

US inventor King C. Gillette receives a patent for a disposable safety razor

Under the pseudonym Saki, H.H. Munro publishes *Reginald*, his first volume of short stories

Australian soprano Nellie Melba makes the first of a great many recordings

US president Theodore Roosevelt announces the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, in response to crises in Latin America

Dublin's Abbey Theatre opens as a new home for the Irish National Theatre Society

Gwen John makes her home in Paris, where she becomes Rodin's model and mistress

1905

Transvaal politician Louis Botha forms Het Volk ('The People'), a party committed to Afrikaner self-government

The American sculptor Jacob Epstein moves from New York to settle in London

Troops fire on a demonstration in St Petersburg, in the event which becomes known as Bloody Sunday

Industrial Workers of the World (with its members later known as Wobblies) is founded in Chicago as a radical union initiative

The Bloomsbury Group gathers for informal evenings at the family home of Virginia and Vanessa Stephens (later Virginia Woolf and Vanessa Bell)

Strikes and riots sweep across Russia in the wake of St Petersburg's Bloody Sunday

Albert Einstein explains the photoelectric effect as a flow of discrete particles (quanta) of electromagnetic radiation

Henry Wood sets 'Rule Britannia' in his *Fantasia on British Sea Songs*, providing a traditional favourite for the last night of the Proms

More than 360,000 Norwegians vote to end the union with Sweden, with only 184 against

The Japanese defeat a larger force of Russians at Mukden in the final land battle of the Russo-Japanese War

English engineer Herbert Austin sets up a factory to manufacture cars at Longbridge, south of Birmingham

Kaiser Wilhelm II visits Tangier in support of Moroccan independence, causing a diplomatic crisis with the colonial powers France and Britain

German biologists Fritz Schaudinn and Erich Hoffmann discover the micro-

organism *Treponema pallidum* which causes syphilis

Two thirds of the Russian fleet is sunk after being ambushed by Japanese warships in the Tsushima Strait

The largest diamond yet known is found in a South African mine belonging to Thomas Cullinan

Oscar Wilde's *De Profundis*, a letter of recrimination written in Reading Gaol to Lord Alfred Douglas, is published posthumously

In his special theory of relativity Albert Einstein reconciles the apparent clash between relativity and electromagnetic theory

Henri Matisse completes his painting *Luxe, Calme et Volupté*

US photographers Alfred Stieglitz and Edward Steichen set up the Little Galleries of the Photo-Secession in New York

French psychologists Alfred Binet and Theodore Simon develop a scale by which to measure the 'mental age' of children

Ernst Ludwig Kirchner and other Dresden students form the Expressionist group Die Brücke

Pablo Picasso's palette becomes warmer as Blue evolves into Rose

David Belasco's play *Girl of the Golden West* has its premiere in New York, where it is seen two years later by Giacomo Puccini

Alberta and Saskatchewan join the Canadian confederation, completing the 'prairie provinces'

Karol Szymanowski and other Polish composers form a group that soon becomes known as Young Poland

The Ulster Unionist Party is founded in Belfast to oppose Home Rule

The Russian composer Alexander Scriabin becomes influenced by the theosophy of Madame Blavatsky

Edith Wharton publishes the novel that brings her fame and fortune, *The House of Mirth*

Henri Matisse, in the south of France, paints *The Open Window, Collioure*, the first of his many works on this theme

The first boat to be powered by a combustion engine, the 125-ton vessel *Venoga*, is launched on Lake Geneva

A complaint about maggoty meat on the Russian battleship *Potemkin* leads to thousands of deaths after troops fire on a demonstration

English physiologists William Bayliss and Ernest Starling coin the word 'hormone' for glandular secretions into the bloodstream

The Maji-Maji rising results in alarming outbreaks of violence in German East Africa

The first German submarine, or U-boat, is constructed in a programme to catch up with Britain and France in this area

H.G. Wells publishes *Kipps: the story of a simple soul*, a comic novel about a bumbling draper's assistant

The German commander in east Africa uses famine as a means of ending the Maji-Maji

rising

US philosopher George Santayana publishes the first of the five volumes of his *Life of Reason*

President Theodore Roosevelt mediates a peace treaty in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, between Russia and Japan

Hitler moves to Vienna, hoping to be a painter, but is twice rejected as a student by the Academy of Fine Arts

Thomas Dixon's popular novel *The Clansman* presents the Ku Klux Klan in heroic terms

Aristide Maillol has his first major success with a large sculpture at the Salon d'Automne in Paris

The Treaty of Portsmouth gives Japan control of Port Arthur and much of the Liaotung Peninsula

Britain's Automobile Association is founded, with patrol-men on bicycles to assist drivers

Claude Debussy completes the three symphonic sketches forming *La Mer*

Albert Einstein relates mass and energy in the equation $e = mc^2$

Matisse, Derain and others, exhibiting in Paris their shockingly colourful new works, are dubbed *fauves* ("wild beasts") by a critic

The first *soviet* ("council") of workers is set up in St Petersburg, introducing a word of great significance in Russian Communist history

The Dutch dancer Gertrud Zelle begins a career in Paris, using the stage name Mata Hari

Tsar Nicholas II reluctantly signs the October Manifesto, authorizing an elected *duma* or legislature

Percival Lowell predicts the existence of an unknown planet, almost exactly where Pluto is discovered 25 years later

Gustav Mahler's cycle of five songs, *Kindertotenlieder*, is its first performance in Vienna

The monk Grigory Rasputin exercises a powerful influence over the Russian empress Alexandra

Bernard Shaw has two new plays opening in London in the same year, *Major Barbara* and *Man and Superman*

The designer Edward Gordon Craig publishes a theatrical manifesto, *The Art of the Theatre*

Conservative prime minister Balfour resigns and Henry Campbell-Bannerman forms an interim Liberal government in Britain

Richard Strauss's *Salome*, based on Oscar Wilde's play, has wide success in spite of censorship difficulties

Franz Lehár's operetta *The Merry Widow* opens in Vienna at the start of an immensely successful run

Sir Percy Blakeney rescues aristocrats from the guillotine in Baroness Orczy's *The Scarlet Pimpernel*

1906

17-year-old Charlie Chaplin joins the Fred Karno company, touring slapstick comedy

Henry Campbell-Bannerman leads the Liberals to a massive election victory in the UK on a

promised programme of reform

Britain's Labour Party achieves its first electoral success, winning twenty-nine seats at Westminster

Britain launches HMS *Dreadnought*, the first of a massive new class of battleship

The first part of the Post Office Savings Bank in Vienna is completed, to the designs of Otto Wagner

Upton Sinclair publishes *The Jungle*, a hard-hitting novel about the Chicago meat-packing industry

More than 1200 French miners die in an underground explosion in the district of Calais

Cardiff's new Civic Centre is launched with the completion of the City Hall and Law Courts, designed by Lanchester, Stewart and Rickards

English biologist William Bateson uses the word 'genetics' to describe the phenomenon of heredity and variation

An international conference at Algeciras effectively gives France informal control of Morocco

The Grain Growers' Grain Company is established, soon becoming an important element in Canada's grain market

Frederick Soddy observes his first examples of chemically identical elements with differing atomic weights, to which he later gives the name isotopes

Fire destroys much of San Francisco following the most violent earthquake in the city's history

The Liberals win a majority in election for Russia's new *duma* and press ahead with proposals for land reform

Antoni Gaudí completes his radical rebuilding of the Casa Batlló in Barcelona

Istanbul cedes the Sinai Peninsula to British-controlled Egypt

Tsar Nicholas II issues a Fundamental Law emphasizing his own autocratic power

In Charles Ives' composition *The Unanswered Question* the trumpet repeatedly asks 'the perennial question of existence'

German immunologist August von Wasserman develops a diagnostic test to reveal the presence of the syphilis spirochaete in the blood

Charles Pathé opens the first purpose-built luxury cinema, the Omnia-Pathé, in Paris

The first volume of the inexpensive Everyman's Library is issued by Joseph Dent, a London publisher

The Naturalization Act provides definitive requirements for naturalization as a US citizen

E. Nesbit publishes *The Railway Children*, the most successful of her books featuring the Bastable family

The Simplon rail tunnel, the longest in the world (20 km), is opened between Switzerland and Italy

In direct response to Britain's new *Dreadnought*, Germany increases the production of battleships

Tsar Nicholas II appoints as prime minister the reformist aristocrat Pyotr Stolypin

The first Grand Prix of motor-racing is held near Le Mans over a 64-mile course

Pablo Picasso's portrait of Gertrude Stein prefigures cubism in its mask-like treatment of her face

The Pure Food and Drug Act, a landmark initiative in consumer protection, becomes law in the US

Alfred Dreyfus is reinstated in the army after the French supreme court overturns his conviction for treason

Belgian physiologists Jules Bordet and Octave Gengou identify *Bacillus pertussis*, the bacterium causing whooping cough

Tsar Nicholas II summarily dismisses Russia's new дума when it has been sitting for only three months

Alfred Dreyfus is awarded the Légion d'Honneur ten days after his conviction has been annulled

Humorous Phases of Funny Faces, created by New Yorker J. Stuart Blackton, introduces the concept of the animated cartoon

The Cunard company launches the *Lusitania* on the Clyde as a sister ship to the *Mauretania*

The Great Valparaíso Earthquake damages much of central Chile and is felt from Peru to Buenos Aires

Frank Lloyd Wright builds a Unity Temple for the Unitarians in Oak Park, now a suburb of

Chicago

A large retrospective exhibition in Paris gives Paul Gauguin a growing posthumous reputation

Mahatma Gandhi, confronted by racial discrimination in South Africa, launches a programme of passive resistance (*satyagraha*)

Sergei Diaghilev mounts a major exhibition of Russian art at the Petit Palais in Paris.

A paediatrician in Vienna, Clemens von Pirquet, describes a condition for which he coins the term 'allergy'

German physicist Walther Nernst establishes the Third Law of Thermodynamics, dealing with temperatures close to absolute zero

Ethel Smyth's most successful opera, *The Wreckers*, is premiered in Leipzig

6-year-old Fred Astaire and his sister Adele give their first professional performance, in the pier theatre in Keyport, New Jersey

Roald Amundsen and his crew are the first to achieve the Northwest Passage, in a journey lasting three years in a 70-ft fishing boat

The German neuropathologist Alois Alzheimer identifies physical symptoms in the brain of a dead woman who had presenile dementia

President Roosevelt wins a Nobel Peace Prize for his mediation between Russia and Japan

The Russian prime minister Pyotr Stolypin introduces land reform

The Story of the Kelly Gang, produced in Australia, is the first feature-length film, with a

running time of nearly an hour

Transvaal is given the self-governing status promised in the treaty ending the Boer War

Reginald Fessenden transmits on Christmas Eve, from Brant Rock, Massachusetts, the world's first radio broadcast

The All-India Muslim League is set up at a meeting of the Muhammadan Educational Conference in Dhaka

John Galsworthy publishes *The Man of Property*, the first of his novels chronicling the family of Soames Forsyte

1907

US inventor Lee De Forest patents the Audion, a sensitive vacuum-tube radio receiver

J.M. Synge's *Playboy of the Western World* provokes violent reactions at its Dublin premiere

Frederick Delius's *Walk to the Paradise Garden* is added to his opera *A Village Romeo and Juliet* to cover a scene change during the Berlin premiere

Michel Fokine creates the ballet *Les Sylphides* (originally called *Chopiniana*) to music by Chopin

Maria Montessori establishes her first Casa dei Bambini in the deprived San Lorenzo district of Rome

Russian author Maxim Gorky completes his novel *Mat* ("The Mother"), written mainly during a visit to the USA

President Roosevelt sends marines to protect US property during political unrest in Honduras

Edmund Gosse publishes *Father and Son*, an account of his difficult relationship with his fundamentalist father, Philip Gosse

Dutch and British companies (Royal Dutch Oil, Shell Transport and Trading) merge to form Royal Dutch Shell Oil

An Entente signed between Britain and Russia follows on from the 1904 Entente Cordiale with France to establish a new Triple Entente

US philosopher William James publishes *Pragmatism: a New Name for Old Ways of Thinking*

Charles Stewart Rolls and Henry Royce build their most famous car, the Silver Ghost, in the factory they have set up in Derby

Russian impresario Sergei Diaghilev presents five concerts of Russian music in Paris

Gertrude Stein meets Alice B. Toklas, who becomes her secretary and lifelong companion

A separatist party in Spain, Solidaridad Catalana, makes electoral gains in Catalonia

Pablo Picasso's *Les Femmes d'Alger*, a violent transition into cubism, is a turning point in western art

Henkel & Cie launches in Düsseldorf the first domestic washing powder, Persil

Austrian scientist Clemens von Pirquet discovers a diagnostic test to identify tuberculosis in a patient

James Joyce completes the 15 short stories eventually published in 1914 as *Dubliners*

A fossilized human jaw, probably at least 500,000 years old, is found near Heidelberg in

Germany

Collapse of trust companies causes panic and financial crisis in USA

The world's first custom-built motor-racing track opens at Brooklands, near Weybridge in Surrey

The Transvaal government presents to Edward VII the Cullinan diamond, now part of the British crown jewels

The Deutscher Werkbund is founded in Munich as an association of architects, designers and industrialists

Frederick Delius completes *Brigg Fair*, an 'English Rhapsody' for orchestra, first performed in Liverpool in 1908

Samuel Simon, working in Manchester, takes out a patent for the use of silk to support a stencil

The first International Horse Show takes place in London's Olympia stadium

The Harvester Judgement establishes a minimum wage in Australia

Swedish playwright August Strindberg publishes *The Ghost Sonata*, which has its first performance in Stockholm the following year

New Zealand becomes independent as a self-governing dominion

The British liner *Lusitania* sets a new record for the Atlantic crossing, on the first of four such occasions

Harry Lauder has a hit in the USA with his recording of *I Love a Lassie*

US cartoonist Bud Fisher creates Mutt and Jeff for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, in the world's first daily comic strip

A Midwest region, including what remains of the reserved Indian Territory, is included in Oklahoma when it joins the Union as the 46th state

20-year-old Le Corbusier builds his first house at La Chaux-de-Fonds, in his native Switzerland

President Roosevelt sends a fleet of warships on a goodwill tour of the world that also demonstrates US power

Anna Pavlova dances *The Dying Swan*, choreographed for her by Michel Fokine to music by Saint-Saëns

c. 1908

Robert Baden-Powell publishes *Scouting for Boys*, the success of which leads to the establishment of the Scouts

Jack London's novel *Iron Heel* foresees a future repressive capitalist regime in the USA

Rat, Mole and Toad, in Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*, appeal to a wide readership

The king of Portugal, Carlos I, and his heir, Luis Filipe, are shot as they ride in an open carriage in Lisbon

Anatole France casts a satirical eye on human society in his novel *L'île des pingouins* ("Penguin Island")

Jack Norworth and Albert von Tilzer write *Take Me Out to the Ball Game*, which becomes one of the most popular songs in the USA

The FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) is set up in Washington

The Young Turks of Salonika organize a successful uprising against the autocracy of the Ottoman sultan

Ezra Pound's first book of poems, *A Lume Spento*, is published in Italy

UK prime minister Henry Campbell-Bannerman resigns because of ill health and is followed as Liberal leader and prime minister by Herbert Asquith

David Lloyd George becomes chancellor of the exchequer in Asquith's new cabinet

The Polyscope Film Company releases the first horror movie, *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, filmed from a popular stage production

The Burmah Oil Company, developing a concession granted in 1901 to William Knox D'Arcy, discovers oil in Iran

Austria annexes Bosnia-Herzegovina, in response to the policy of the Young Turks in Istanbul

Sergei Diaghilev presents Fyodor Chaliapin in *Boris Godunov* at the Paris Opera

The Liberal government in Britain introduces an old-age pension, albeit only five shillings a week.

Ernest Shackleton, leading an expedition to the Antarctic, locates the south magnetic pole

Georges Braque's *Houses at L'Estaque* introduces analytic Cubism

Claude Debussy completes *Children's Corner*, pieces for piano which include 'Golliwog's Cake Walk'

International outrage at Congo atrocities forces Belgium to annexe King Leopold's private colony

German physicist Hans Geiger, working in England with Rutherford, develops an instrument that can detect and count alpha particles

Augusto Leguía begins a long spell as the strong man of Peruvian politics

Jack Norworth and Nora Bayes write "Shine on, Harvest Moon" for *The Follies of 1908*

Maurice Maeterlinck's *The Blue Bird* is performed at the Moscow Art Theatre in a production by Stanislavsky

Bronislava Nijinska joins her brother Vaslav in the Maryinsky company in St Petersburg

After first being discussed at the Berlin Radiotelegraphic Conference in 1906, SOS is formally ratified as the international distress signal

Swiss chemist Jacques Brandenberger patents cellophane, a flexible transparent film made from cellulose

Parliament in Australia chooses Canberra as the site of the nation's new capital

Coffee replaces sugar as Brazil's main crop, accounting for more than 50% of exports in 1908

Lucy Maud Montgomery's first novel, *Anne of Green Gables*, brings her instant fame and fortune

George McJunkin, near Folsom in New Mexico, sees the bones of an extinct giant bison, partially exposed after a flash flood, with an ancient spear point embedded in the skeleton

Modernist architect Adolf Loos attacks architectural ornament in *Ornament and Crime*

Arnold Schoenberg abandons tonality in his String Quartet No. 2

Alexander Scriabin's orchestral work, *Poem of Ecstasy*, has its first performance in New York

The first Model T Ford rolls off the production line at the Piquette Avenue Plant in Detroit

Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria declares his country's independence from Ottoman rule and calls himself Tsar Ferdinand I

The last Manchu emperor, Puyi, is placed on the throne at the age of two on the death of his uncle, the Guanxu emperor

The Empress Dowager Cixi dies the day after selecting the infant Puyi for the Chinese throne

Gideons International place their first bible in a hotel bedroom, in Montana, USA

Europe's worst earthquake, centred on the Strait of Messina, kills up to 200,000 people in Sicily and southern Italy.

William Howard Taft, the Republican candidate, is elected to follow Roosevelt as president

The French critic Louis Vauxcelles describes Braque's latest landscapes as being composed of cubes, resulting in the term cubism

US boxer Jack Johnson becomes the first black heavyweight champion when he knocks out

Tommy Burns in Australia

The Welsh poet W.H. Davies has a success with *The Autobiography of a Super-Tramp*, his account of life on the road and in dosshouses

1909

Bernard Leach moves to Japan to study oriental traditions in the graphic arts

The opera *Elektra*, the first collaboration between Richard Strauss and Hugo von Hofmannsthal, has its premiere in Dresden

Michel Fokine becomes the choreographer for the ballet company that Sergei Diaghilev is taking to Paris

Ralph Vaughan Williams sets poems by Housman in *On Wenlock Edge*

Italian educational pioneer Maria Montessori publishes *The Montessori Method*

Rugby Union acquires new headquarters and a state-of-the-art stadium at Twickenham

Alexandre Benois becomes the first artistic director of Diaghilev's Ballets Russes

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is founded in response to two lynchings in Illinois

Arnold Schoenberg composes his opera for a single voice, *Erwartung*, which remains unperformed until 1924 in Prague

Leo Baekeland announces his discovery of Bakelite, calling it 'the material of a thousand uses'

National delegates from the four provincial parliaments draw up a draft constitution for a

South African union

French biologist Charles Nicolle discovers that epidemic typhus is transmitted by the body louse

Mary Pickford begins her film career at sixteen, when she is hired by D.W. Griffith

André Gide publishes *La Porte étroite* ('Strait is the Gate')

Isaac Albéniz completes his series of 12 piano pieces published under the title *Iberia*.

René Lalique, originally known for his jewellery, sets up his own glass-making factory at Combes-la-Ville

15-year-old Andrés Segovia gives his first public performance as a guitarist in Granada

Vaughan Williams first symphony, which he names *A Sea Symphony*, is first performed at the Leeds Festival

Diaghilev presents the first season of Ballets Russes in Paris, with Pavlova and Nijinsky in the company

Fokine's 1907 ballet *Chopiniana* is revised and given a new name, *Les Sylphides*

Jack London publishes his most autobiographical novel, *Martin Eden*

The heroine of H.G. Wells' novel *Ann Veronica* is a determined example of the New Woman

US entrepreneur Gordon Selfridge opens the first British custom-built department store on London's Oxford Street

Sea captain Joseph-Elzéar Bernier unveils a plaque in the Arctic Archipelago, declaring that all the islands belong to Canada

Mahatma Gandhi, on a visit to India, publishes a pamphlet entitled *Hind Swaraj*("Indian Home Rule")

President Taft builds the first Oval Office, in the new west wing of the White House

US physicist Robert A. Millikan devises an oil drop experiment that determines the charge of an electron

Louis Blériot is the first to fly across the English Channel, winning the £1000 prize offered by the *Daily Mail*

Mineral discoveries on the border of Northern Rhodesia and the Belgian Congo give the first hint of the riches of the Copper Belt

The Selig Polyscope Company sets up the first film studio in the Los Angeles region, at Edendale

Sergei Rachmaninov premieres his Third Piano Concerto during his tour of the USA as a pianist

Karl Landsteiner classifies the main human blood groups as A, B, AB and O

Thomas Beecham uses his personal fortune from Beecham's Pills to found his first orchestra, the Beecham Symphony Orchestra

Set-designer Leon Bakst begins a long association with Diaghilev's Ballets Russes

President Taft sends marines to Nicaragua after the government there executes two US

citizens

In response to fears of German espionage a Secret Service Bureau, later to be divided into MI5 and MI6, is set up in Britain

The Conservative majority in the House of Lords rejects Lloyd George's reforming budget, giving the Liberals the chance to call an election on an emotive issue

Rimsky-Korsakov's opera *The Golden Cockerel* has its premiere in Moscow

Joshua Slocum, the most famous sailor of the day, vanishes on another lone voyage

1910

D.W. Griffith directs *In Old California*, the first film shot in the California village of Hollywood

Lee De Forest broadcasts Enrico Caruso live from the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, but with mixed success owing to the poor quality

British prime minister Herbert Asquith leads the Liberal party to a narrow victory, in an election fought on the issue of the House of Lords

The wife of Harvey Crippen, an American doctor working in north London, vanishes mysteriously

Agnes Baden-Powell establishes the Girl Guides, an organization for girls equivalent to the Scouts

Edward Carson, previously a prominent Conservative politician at Westminster, becomes leader of the Ulster Unionist party

Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis* is first performed in Gloucester

Chicago cardiologist James Herrick publishes the first account of the cells causing sickle-

cell anaemia

Maurice Chevalier and Mistinguett perform together at the Folies-Bergère

US geneticist Thomas Hunt Morgan establishes the chromosome theory of heredity through his study of the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster*

UK prime minister Herbert Asquith plans to reduce the power of the House of Lords, but the upper house as yet is certain to block any such bill

In his poem *Cargoes* John Masefield compares a 'dirty British coaster' with two romantic boats from the past

Fritz Kreisler is the soloist in the first performance of Edward Elgar's Violin Concerto

Alban Berg and Anton Webern follow Schoenberg in developing atonal music

Edward VII dies in London, after just nine years on the throne

George V succeeds his father, Edward VII, on the British throne

Gustav Mahler conducts in Munich the first performance of his Eighth Symphony, subsequently known as the 'Symphony of a Thousand'

Constantine Cavafy prints a few more of his poems to add to the fourteen privately printed in 1904

The Union of South Africa becomes an independent dominion within the British empire

J.M. Synge's last and unfinished play, *Deirdre of the Sorrows*, is performed in Dublin shortly after his death

Charles Stewart Rolls becomes the first man to fly non-stop across the English Channel and back

Robert Falcon Scott sails south in the *Terra Nova* on his second voyage towards the South Pole

Schéhérazade, with choreography by Fokine, music by Rimsky-Korsakov and designs by Bakst, is premiered by the Ballets Russes in Paris

The Firebird brings together Fokine (choreography), Stravinsky (music) and Golovine and Bakst (sets and costumes)

Antoni Gaudí completes an apartment block, the Casa Milá, in Barcelona

The US Congress passes the Mann White Slave Traffic Act, an attempt to control prostitution

Winston Churchill becomes home secretary in Asquith's Liberal government

John Buchan publishes *Prester John*, the first of his adventure stories

A revolution begins in Mexico that will last ten years before being resolved

Charles Stewart Rolls dies in a flying accident shortly after his record cross-Channel flight

Alexander Scriabin completes *Prometheus, the Poem of Fire*, first performed in Moscow in 1911

The Snowman, a pantomime opera by the 11-year-old Erich Korngold, is a huge success in Vienna

The critic Roger Fry presents in London's Grafton Galleries an influential exhibition of Post-Impressionist art

Telegraph messages lead to the arrest of Dr Crippen and his mistress Ethel Le Neve in mid-Atlantic

Three French colonies south of the Sahara are consolidated as French Equatorial Africa

Henri Matisse completes two large paintings, *La Danse* and *La Musique*, for the staircase of Sergei Shchukin's house in Moscow

The Gimbel family open their flagship department store in Manhattan

Sun Yatsen and others merge several smaller Chinese political groups into the Guomindang, or Nationalist Party

Japan annexes Korea as a colony, to be controlled by a Japanese governor-general

A republican revolution in Portugal deposes Manuel II, bringing to an end the Braganza dynasty and the Portuguese monarchy

H.G. Wells publishes *The History of Mr Polly*, a novel about an escape from drab everyday existence

Rudyard Kipling publishes *If*, which rapidly becomes his most popular poem among the British

Elizabeth Arden opens her first beauty salon on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan

Wassily Kandinsky's paintings entitled *Compositions* are the first examples of purely abstract art

Ten men and two women establish the first kibbutz, at Degania in Palestine

Louis Botha is prime minister of the newly formed Union of South Africa, with Jan Smuts as his minister of interior and defence

The Steiner House, designed by the Austrian architect Adolf Loos, is completed in Vienna

Thomas Beecham sponsors and conducts his own season of opera at Covent Garden

The Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy, wandering from home in midwinter, dies of pneumonia in the stationmaster's house at Astapovo

Ferdinand Zeppelin's dirigible *Deutschland* provides the first commercial air service for passengers

Giacomo Puccini's opera *Girl of the Golden West* premieres in New York

The Liberals win another general election called on the House of Lords issue, becoming the first British political party since 1832 to win three successive victories

E.M. Forster publishes *Howard's End*, his novel about the Schlegel sisters and the Wilcox family

The part-time English painter L.S. Lowry begins a lifetime career in a Manchester property company

1911

Eugene B. Ely lands his Curtiss biplane on the US cruiser *Pennsylvania*, pointing the way to the future development of the aircraft carrier

Charles Wilson, using his cloud chamber to detect the passage of charged particles, obtains his first photographs of alpha and beta rays

The lost Inca city of Machu Picchu is reached by US archaeologist Hiram Bingham

Ernest Rutherford proposes the concept of the nucleus as a positively charged mass at the centre of an atom

Richard Strauss changes musical direction with his opera *Der Rosenkavalier*, once again with libretto by Hugo von Hoffmannsthal

Ethel Smyth's *The March of Women* has its premiere at a suffragette event in London's Albert Hall

Nearly 150 New York garment workers die in a factory fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company

Pennsylvania Station opens in New York, designed by McKim, Mead & White

Al Jolson makes his first recording, *That Haunting Melody*, for the Victor label

D.H. Lawrence's career as a writer is launched with the publication of his first novel, *The White Peacock*

Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova settles in London and forms her own touring company

Rupert Brooke publishes *Poems*, the only collection to appear before his early death in World War I

Le Spectre de la Rose, with choreography by Fokine, music by Weber and designs by Bakst, is premiered by the Ballets Russes in Monte Carlo

G.K. Chesterton's clerical detective makes his first appearance in *The Innocence of Father Brown*

The British chancellor, David Lloyd George, introduces the National Insurance Bill, providing workers with insurance in a few selected industries

John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company of New Jersey is broken up by US antitrust legislation

In a German Pension is New Zealand author Katherine Mansfield's first collection of stories

US inventor Isaac Newton Lewis patents a lighter version of the machine gun

US driver Ray Harroun wins the first Indianapolis 500 motor race

The *Titanic* is launched at the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast

Frank Lloyd Wright designs Taliesin, as his own home and studio, near Bear Run in Wisconsin

Spanish composer Enrique Granados completes his *Goyescas*, seven pieces for piano

Scott Joplin completes a ragtime opera, *Treemonisha*

Italy finds a reason to invade Libya, a province of the Turkish empire.

The ballet *Petrushka* brings together Fokine (choreography), Stravinsky (music) and Benois (sets and costumes)

President Taft sends US marines to Honduras to protect American banana interests during a spell of political turmoil

Frances Hodgson Burnett publishes *The Secret Garden*, which becomes a classic of children's literature

Walter Sickert and other painters, sharing his preference for everyday subjects, adopt the name Camden Town Group

The Nestor Film Company opens the first film studio in Hollywood, on Sunset Boulevard

Germany causes international alarm by sending a warship to Agadir, a port in French-controlled Morocco

Hugo von Hofmannsthal adapts the English medieval morality play *Everyman* ('Jedermann') for performance in Salzburg

Asquith's Parliament Bill proposes to end the constitutional crisis in the UK by restricting the power of the House of Lords

Confronted with the threat of 300 newly created peerages, the House of Lords narrowly passes Asquith's Parliament Bill (by 17 votes)

Emiliano Zapata leads peasant groups in the Mexican revolution, under the slogan 'Land and Liberty'

Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* is stolen from the Louvre in Paris

Max Beerbohm publishes his novel *Zuleika Dobson*, in which the beauty of his heroine causes havoc among the students at Oxford

Baseball pitcher Cy Young retires with a record achievement of 511 wins in 22 professional seasons

Alfred Adler ends his association breaks with Sigmund Freud and forms his own school of psychology

The Russian prime minister Pyotr Stolypin is assassinated in a Kiev theatre

Edward Carson tells a vast crowd in Northern Ireland that they must be ready to defend their Protestant province by force

Copper mining begins in Katanga, soon to be followed by the extraction of even more profitable diamonds

Bruno Walter conducts in Munich the first performance of Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*, a few months after the composer's death

French composer Henri Duparc publishes a complete edition of his songs

Austrian artist Gustav Klimt completes his designs for mosaics in the Palais Stoclet in Brussels

Conservative leader Robert Laird Borden becomes prime minister of Canada, ending fifteen years of Liberal rule under Wilfrid Laurier

An uprising in the city of Wuchang is the first major event in the rapidly developing Chinese revolution

Rudolph Wurlitzer's company in the USA produces the first of its famous movie theatre organs

Walter Gropius builds the Fagus Factory at Alfeld an der Leine in Germany

The US composer Irving Berlin writes 'Alexander's Ragtime Band'

The British monarch George V holds a great *darbar* in Delhi to celebrate his coronation as emperor of India

Sergei Diaghilev and Vaslav Nijinsky leave Russia for the west

Jelly Roll Morton plays in New York his *Jelly Roll Blues* (published in 1915)

Robert Lorimer completes a chapel for the Knights of the Thistle in St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh

The painters Wassily Kandinsky, Franz Marc and others form Der Blaue Reiter

Roald Amundsen and his Norwegian team become the first people to stand at the South Pole

The Italian premier, Giovanni Giolitti, introduces reformist legislation including a national insurance act

Bernard Leach discovers his skill and future craft at a raku party in Japan, where each guest is invited to throw a pot

1912

A republic of China is proclaimed, with Sun Yatsen as its provisional president

New Mexico becomes the 47th state of the United States of America

Robert Falcon Scott and his companions reach the South Pole a month after Amundsen - and die on the return journey

US aeroplane designer Glenn Curtis demonstrates the potential of the first successful flying boat, *The Flying Fish*

Coco Chanel opens a shop selling millinery in Deauville, in France

The abdication of the child emperor Puyi brings to an end the Qing dynasty

Arizona becomes the 48th state of the United States of America

The Kaiser and his advisers decide to postpone a preventive war against France and Russia

Former president Theodore Roosevelt campaigns against President Taft for the Republican nomination

UK suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst is arrested, released and rearrested twelve times within the year

A national uprising against Turkish rule in Albania launches a full-scale Balkan war

Lillian and Dorothy Gish make their screen debut with the Biograph Company

Egon Schiele's highly explicit images of nudes land him briefly in gaol

Carl Nielsen's Third Symphony, first performed in Copenhagen, brings him international renown

Marcel Duchamp's *Nude Descending a Staircase, No.2* creates a stir

Georges Braque's *Fruit-Dish and Glass* adds papier collé (a type of collage) to the conventions of cubism

The White Star liner *Titanic* sinks on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York, drowning 1513 passengers and crew

The 'Workers' Newspaper' *Pravda* (meaning 'Truth') publishes its first issue in St Petersburg

Rabindranath Tagore publishes a collection of his Bengali poems in *Gitanjali*

William Morris opens a factory at Cowley, near Oxford, to produce motor cars

At a conference in Prague Lenin forms the Bolsheviks into a separate political party with himself as leader

Vaslav Nijinsky causes a sensation dancing in his own first ballet, *L'Après-midi d'un faune*, to music by Debussy

Guillaume Apollinaire coins the term Orphism for Robert Delaunay's distinctive style of abstraction

Charles Dawson claims to have found the fossilized skull of an early man (named in his honour *Eoanthropus dawsoni*) in a gravel pit at Piltdown

The Russian poet Anna Akhmatova publishes *Evening*, her first collection of poems

Benito Mussolini, an active revolutionary Socialist, becomes editor of the party newspaper in Italy

German scientist Alfred Wegener, impressed by the neat fit between the coasts of Africa and South America, proposes the theory of continental drift

President Taft sends US marines to Cuba because of political unrest in the island

Turkey, beset by troubles elsewhere, cedes to Italy her north African province of Libya

The Social Democrats become the largest group in Germany's Reichstag

The first sea-going diesel-powered ship, the *Selandia*, is constructed and launched in Denmark

Electoral reform is introduced in Argentina, with universal male suffrage and a secret ballot

Tibet declares its independence after the fall of the Qing dynasty and the end of imperial China

By the treaty of Fès a French protectorate is formally established in Morocco

President Taft sends US marines into Nicaragua during a period of disorder

William Howard Taft defeats Theodore Roosevelt at the Republican convention to win the nomination

Theodore Roosevelt's followers form a rival party to the Republicans, soon to be known as the Bull Moose party

Daphnis and Chloe, with choreography by Fokine, music by Ravel and designs by Bakst, is premiered by the Ballets Russes in Paris

Tommy Sopwith founds the aviation company that will produce the Pup and the Camel

Mack Sennett sets up the Keystone studio in California, soon to be famous for the knockabout farce of the Keystone Kops

Ludwig Wittgenstein moves to Cambridge to study philosophy under Bertrand Russell

Carl Jung breaks with Freud and introduces the concept of the collective unconscious

France and Spain agree that Spain shall become the colonial power in the north of Morocco

and France in the south

Renascence is the title poem in college student Edna St Vincent Millay's first published collection

Jacob Epstein causes a stir with his provocatively modern angel on the tomb of Oscar Wilde in Père Lachaise

Arnold Schoenberg sets *Pierrot Lunaire* for a solo voice, reciting the text to the accompaniment of a quintet

The Berlin Opera Ballet is founded to perform in the city's new opera house

The South African National Native Congress (subsequently the ANC, African National Congress) is set up in Cape Province

Walter Gropius and other architects in Germany develop the International Modern style

Half a million Unionist men and women in Belfast commit themselves to civil disobedience if Home Rule government is established in Ireland

Memphis Blues is composed by 'father of the blues' W.C. Handy

An Albanian uprising against the Ottoman empire is so successful that the Albanians are able to capture Skopje in Macedonia

By a prearranged plan Greece, Bulgaria and Serbia together launch the First Balkan War against Turkey

The opera *Ariadne auf Naxos*, by Richard Strauss and Hugo von Hofmannsthal, has its first premiere in Stuttgart

Walter De la Mare establishes his reputation with the title poem of his collection *The Listeners*

Ethel Smyth, in Holloway jail, conducts her fellow prisoners in a suffragette anthem composed by herself

Democrat Woodrow Wilson defeats Republicans Taft and Roosevelt to become the 28th president of the USA

An armistice agreed between the Ottoman empire and three of the Balkan states ends the war in the Balkans

Giacomo Balla attempts to paint movement in his futurist *Dynamism of a Dog on a Leash*

A conference of great powers in London accepts Albanian independence but within altered boundaries

Under pressure from Russia, the London conference allots the ethnically Albanian region of Kosovo to Serbia

1913

Unionists in Ulster aim to raise a Volunteer Force of 100,000 men, and begin drilling with dummy wooden rifles

A new and spectacular Grand Central Station opens in New York, designed by Charles Reed and Alan Stern

Cecil B. de Mille, Jesse Lasky and Sam Goldwyn join forces to form a film production company

The Armory Show (officially the International Exhibition of Modern Art) is a sensation in New York

In *O Pioneers* Willa Cather finds her major theme, life on the frontier

Walter Sickert paints *Ennui*, depicting a difficult or dreary moment in a marriage

The Vickers Fighting Biplane No 1 is unveiled in London at the Olympia Aero Show as the world's first purpose-built fighter plane

The US navy begins transmitting by radio a regular time signal, much used by the nation's watchmakers and menders.

In *Pollyanna* Eleanor Porter introduces an immensely successful character, the irrepressibly optimistic orphan Pollyanna Whittier

Dinizulu's son Solomon follows his father as king or chief of the Zulu people, and direct descendants of Shaka's brother Mwande continue to inherit until today

Albert Einstein formulates the law of photochemical equivalence, a fundamental principle of chemical reactions induced by light

The first issue of the *New Statesman* is published by Beatrice and Sidney Webb

English geologist Arthur Holmes publishes *The Age of the Earth*, offering evidence that the planet is at least 1.6 billion years old

The Spanish government grants a degree of administrative autonomy to four provinces of Catalonia

The Woolworth Building opens in New York as the world's tallest skyscraper, a distinction it retains until 1930

Lawrence Bragg and his father, William, together develop X-ray crystallography, based on the diffraction patterns of crystals

The Morris company launches the Morris Oxford, later known as the Bullnose Morris from

the shape of its radiator

The Canadian Arctic Expedition, led by Vilhjalmur Stefansson, sets off to the north

Compton Mackenzie publishes the first volume of his autobiographical novel *Sinister Street*

Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* has its first performance – in a German version in Vienna

Marcel Duchamp creates *Bicycle Wheel*, his first 'assisted readymade', consisting of the wheel screwed upside down on a painted wooden stool

Igor Stravinsky and Vaslav Nijinsky provoke uproar in Paris with *The Rite of Spring* for Ballets Russes

Italian Futurist sculptor Umberto Boccioni suggests human movement in his *Unique Forms of Continuity in Space*

US poet Robert Frost publishes his first book of poems, *A Boy's Will*

The Treaty of London, ending the First Balkan War, allows Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia to divide up much of European Turkey

The cubist movement enters its second phase, deriving from the use of collage and known as Synthetic cubism

French physicists Charles Fabry and Henri Buisson discover the ozone layer in the stratosphere

The Danish physicist Niels Bohr uses quantum theory as a key to understanding the structure of the atom

Alfred North Whitehead and Bertrand Russell complete a work of mathematical

logic,*Principia Mathematica*

Frederick Soddy uses the term 'isotope' (Greek for 'same place') to describe observed anomalies in the periodic table

18-year-old Norwegian soprano Kirsten Flagstad makes her debut in Oslo

Maxim Gorky publishes *Childhood*, the first volume of his autobiographical trilogy

Henry Ford pioneers the moving assembly line in the manufacture of cars at his company's Michigan plant

A suffragette, Emily Davison, dies after throwing herself under the king's horse in the Derby at Epsom

Bulgaria launches the Second Balkan War, in the end to the great detriment of Bulgarian interests

Albert Schweitzer and his wife become missionaries at Lambaréné in west Africa

The so-called Cat and Mouse Act is the British government's response to hunger strikes by suffragettes

German author Thomas Mann publishes the novella *Death in Venice*

The Balkan states and the Ottoman empire agree an armistice in Bucharest, ending the Second Balkan War

The Treaty of Bucharest assigns to Greece nearly all the Greek-speaking regions in the Balkans and Mediterranean

The Brillo Manufacturing Company markets the first Brillo pads in the USA

Alain-Fournier completes his semi-autobiographical novel *Le Grand Meaulnes*

Vaslav Nijinsky marries a Hungarian ballerina and is dismissed from the Ballets Russes by a jealous Diaghilev

The foxtrot, possibly introduced by US performer Harry Fox, becomes an immensely popular ballroom dance

Frederick Delius completes *On Hearing the first Cuckoo in Spring*, first performed this same year in Leipzig

John Ireland sets Masfield's poem *Sea Fever* to music

The Russian poet Osip Mandelstam publishes his first collection, *Stone*

English physicist Henry Moseley proposes that the atomic number of an element is a physical reality, thus laying the basis for the modern periodic table

A coup led by Enver Pasha brings the Young Turks to power in Istanbul

Edith Wharton's novel *The Custom of the Country* begins publication in serial form

The Irish National Volunteers are formed in Dublin, in response to the Protestant equivalent in Ulster

Marcel Proust publishes at his own expense *Swann's Way*, the first volume of *Remembrance of Things Past*

Yuan Shikai outlaws the Guomindang party in the republic of China, to give himself

unchallenged power as president

Leonardo's *Mona Lisa* is recovered two years after its theft when the thief, Vincenzo Perugia, tries to sell it to the Uffizi Gallery in Florence

A young American architect, Walter B. Griffin, wins the competition to design Canberra

The march *Colonel Bogey* is written and published by a Royal Marine bandleader under the pseudonym Kenneth Alford

An underground railway opens in Buenos Aires, the first subway in Latin America

The *New York World* publishes the first crossword puzzle, devised by English-born journalist Arthur Wynne

D.H. Lawrence publishes a semi-autobiographical novel about the Morel family, *Sons and Lovers*

Construction begins on the government buildings in New Delhi, designed by Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker

1914

J.B.M. Hertzog founds the National Party in South Africa to represent Afrikaner interests

George Ruth acquires the nickname Babe when he joins the baseball team the Baltimore Orioles

British rule is consolidated in Nigeria by the merging of north and south as a single colony

The Chilean poet Gabriela Mistral makes her name with her first collection, *Sonetos de la muerte*

A suffragette slashes the *Rokeby Venus* by Velázquez in London's National Gallery

A building by Walter Gropius for the Deutscher Werkbund exhibition in Cologne brings him international attention

British officers stationed at the Curragh in Dublin say they would resign if ordered to quell Protestant resistance in Ulster

Wyndham Lewis and others launch Vorticism with a new magazine, *Blast*

Tarzan makes his first appearance in Edgar Rice Burroughs' novel *Tarzan of the Apes*

Royal-Dutch Shell begins to pump oil in Venezuela, launching the country as a major oil producer

Vaughan Williams writes a romance for violin and orchestra, *The Lark Ascending*, inspired by George Meredith's poem of the same name

The tenor Beniamino Gigli wins an international singing competition in Parma, and makes his operatic debut later in the same year

James Joyce's novel *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* begins serial publication in a London journal, *The Egoist*

Calouste Gulbenkian earns his nickname – Mr Five Percent – from the share he receives for negotiating oil deals in the Ottoman empire

Antoni Gaudí completes the fanciful Park Güell, a residential project north of Barcelona based on the English concept of the garden city

The first issue of the weekly journal *The New Republic* is published in the USA

More than 1000 die when the liner *Empress of Ireland* sinks after a collision in the St Lawrence river

After years of delay James Joyce's *Dubliners*, a collection of short stories, is published

British golfer Harry Vardon wins his sixth Open, a record still unbroken

American-born poet Thomas Stearns Eliot crosses the Atlantic to England, making it his home for the rest of his life

The poem 'Mending Wall' features in Robert Frost's collection *North of Boston*

Marcel Duchamp exhibits his first pure 'readymade', a bottle rack bought in a department store and displayed without alteration

Margaret Anderson publishes in Chicago the first issue of *The Little Review*, a monthly literary magazine

The Times Literary Supplement is published in London as an independent paper, separate from *The Times*

The Assemblies of God is established as the largest affiliation of Pentecostal churches

Vaughan Williams' *London Symphony*, including picturesque sounds of the city's street life, is first performed

The Russian painter and sculptor Vladimir Tatlin develops an abstract style to which he gives the name Constructivism

Martha, 29 years old and the last passenger pigeon in the world, dies in the Cincinnati zoo in Ohio

Giacomo della Chiesa is elected pope and takes the name Benedict XV

The American writer Amy Lowell publishes an Imagist collection of poems, *Sword Blades and Poppy Seed*

A Home Rule Act is finally passed for Ireland, with its implementation postponed until after the war

The sculptor Constantin Brancusi has his first one-man exhibition, at Stieglitz's gallery in New York

The Swedish-American poet Carl Sandburg makes his name with 'Chicago', published in the magazine *Poetry*

Jacob Epstein completes his sculpture *The Rock Drill*, the outstanding work of the Vorticist movement

The Clayton Act strengthens many aspects of US antitrust legislation

The Panama Canal opens to shipping on a neutral basis just two weeks after the start of World War I

Tsar Nicholas II changes the name of his capital city to Petrograd, because St Petersburg sounds German

Benito Mussolini, advocating Italian entry into the war on the side of the Allies, is expelled from the Socialist party

Stanley Spencer joins the Royal Army Medical Corps, with whom he finds a wealth of subject matter

Benito Mussolini founds a newspaper, *Il Popolo d'Italia* ('The People of Italy'), to argue the case for Italy joining the war

Robert Tressell's *Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* is published posthumously in an abbreviated version

Ivor Novello has a great success with his topical song *Keep the Home Fires Burning*(with lyrics by Lena Ford)

Charlie Chaplin introduces his most famous character, the little tramp, in *Kid Auto Races at Venice*

The British government changes the status of Egypt from a Turkish province to a British protectorate

June 28 - Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, is assassinated in Sarajevo by a Serbian nationalist, Gavrilo Princip

Austria-Hungary plans to attack Serbia, in response to the assassination of the archduke, and seeks a guarantee of German support

Germany promises to support Austria-Hungary if a strike against Serbia provokes war with Russia

July - Erskine Childers sails his own yacht from Germany to Ireland with 900 rifles and 14,000 rounds of ammunition for the Irish Volunteers

July 28 - Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia, following this with bombardment of the Serbian capital, Belgrade

July 30 - the Austrian attack on Serbia causes Russia to mobilize her army

August 1 - in response to the tsar's mobilization of his troops, Germany declares war on Russia

August 2 - Germany and the Ottoman empire sign a secret treaty of alliance

August 2 - German troops move into Luxembourg and demand passage through neutral Belgium

August 3 - with her troops already poised to attack, Germany declares war on France

August 3 - Italy declares neutrality amid the rush of other major European powers into war

August 4 - German troops invade Belgium, violating her guaranteed neutrality

August 4 - bound by treaty to defend Belgium, Britain declares war on Germany

With five major European nations committed within a few days to hostilities, World War I begins

August 4 - President Woodrow Wilson proclaims US neutrality in the European war

The new republican government of Portugal offers Britain support in the war

August 7 - Spain declares a policy of neutrality in the rapidly developing European war

August 7 - a small British Expeditionary Force is rushed across the Channel to Boulogne

August 10 - France declares war on the empire of Austria-Hungary

August 12 - Britain declares war on the empire of Austria-Hungary

August 20 - a Germany army reaches and enters the Belgian capital, Brussels

August 23 Japan, with her own local agenda in the far east, declares war on Germany

August 23 - the British Expeditionary Force fights a rearguard action to escape encirclement by the Germans at Mons

August 25-28 - a German army encircles and almost annihilates a larger Russian force at Tannenberg

August - British and French forces invade the German colony of Togoland

from August - Serbian forces repel two Austrian invasions of their territory

from August - the German cruiser *Emden* carries out successful raids on British shipping in the seas around India

September 3 - a Germany army crosses the river Marne in an advance towards Paris

September 5 - a French army halts the German advance, just 30 miles from Paris

September 8 - after a four-day battle, the French drive the German forces back over the river Marne

September 13 - the Germans adopt a defensive position at the river Aisne in northern France, in the first sign of the trench warfare that will characterize the entire war in the west

from September - the German and French armies, attempting to outflank each other, engage in a race to the sea

October - British planes, taking off from Dunkirk, bomb Cologne railway station and destroy Germany's latest Zeppelin in its great shed at Düsseldorf

October 29 - Turkey, launching an attack on Russian ports in the Black Sea, enters the war on the German side

from October - there are heavy casualties on both sides, and a small advantage to the Allies, in the fighting round Ypres during the 'race to the sea'

British troops are driven to the western front in London Transport double-deckers

More than 30,000 troops in the Canadian Expeditionary Force sail to fight with Britain

H.G. Wells publishes *The War that will end War*, offering an optimistic of the latest conflict leading to a future world state

November 1 - Maximilian von Spee sinks two British cruisers off Coronel, on the Pacific coast of south America

November 2 - Russia declares war on the Ottoman empire

November 5 - Britain and France declare war on the Ottoman empire

November 9 - the German cruiser *Emden* is sunk off the Cocos-Keeling islands by an Australian cruiser, the *Sydney*

November 16 - the German enclave of Qingdao, in China, falls to the Japanese after a two-month siege

November 23 - a British force seizes the Turkish port of Basra, to safeguard the supply of Persian oil

from November - with the battle lines stabilized to the coast, the German and Allied armies settle in for years of gruesome trench warfare

December - German planes cross the Channel and bomb Dover

December - Roger Casement travels to Germany to persuade Irish prisoners of war to change sides and invade Ireland

December 7 - Maximilian von Spee's squadron of cruisers is sunk by the British off the Falkland Islands

1915

An employee of the Metropolitan Railway coins the term Metro-land when promoting the company's services in London's suburbs

Mahatma Gandhi returns to India after more than twenty years in South Africa

Alexander Graham Bell again summons his assistant Thomas Watson (as in 1876), but this time he is in New York and Watson in San Francisco

Manuel de Falla's ballet *El Amor Brujo*, including the 'Ritual Fire Dance', is performed in Paris

Black heavyweight champion Jack Johnson loses his title, in the 26th round, to the "Great White Hope", Jess Willard

The Corning Glass Company launches Pyrex, a new range of heat-resistant kitchen ware made from borosilicate glass

D.W. Griffith's epic film *The Birth of a Nation* has its premiere in New York

Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag, by George Asaf and Felix Powell, rapidly becomes one of the most popular songs of the day

Somerset Maugham publishes his semi-autobiographical novel *Of Human Bondage*

Canadian army surgeon John McCrae writes 'In Flanders Fields' after a friend is killed in the trenches

Radiotelephone messages are transmitted from Arlington in Virginia to the Eiffel Tower in Paris

Thomas Edison invents a machine to record telephone conversations, calling it the teletype

Australian author C.J. Dennis creates the Sentimental Bloke, featuring first in a book of poems and four years later in a film

American campaigner for birth control Margaret Sanger publishes a controversial pamphlet, *Family Limitation*

US novelist Ernest Poole publishes *The Harbor*, set on the Brooklyn waterfront

Franz Kafka publishes *Metamorphosis*, the tale of a travelling salesman who wakes up to find himself transformed into an insect

Woodrow Wilson sends US marines to take control in Haiti after a spate of political assassinations

Kasimir Malevich exhibits his painting *Black Square* in Petrograd, in the final Futurist exhibition

Charlie Chaplin makes *The Tramp*, giving prominence to the famous character he launched the previous year in *Kid Auto Races at Venice*

The nearest star to earth, the red dwarf Proxima Centauri 4.22 light years away, is discovered by Robert Innes, Scottish director of the Johannesburg Observatory

Typhoid-carrier Mary Mallon is detained in New York after leaving a trail of destruction

The Irish painter Jack Yeats develops a romantic Expressionist style, with a new interest in Celtic myth

The English writer Virginia Woolf publishes her first novel, *The Voyage Out*

The inflationary pressures of world war force nations to abandon the established gold standard

Charles-édouard Jeanneret develops Maison Domino, a system of low-cost housing with reinforced concrete columns and precast floors

D.H. Lawrence's novel about the Brangwen family, *The Rainbow*, is seized by the police as an obscene work

The Russian poet and dramatist Vladimir Mayakovsky publishes his first major long poem, *A Cloud in Trousers*

Edgar Lee Masters makes his name as a poet with the publication of *Spoon River Anthology*

Secret agent Richard Hannay makes his first appearance in John Buchan's *Thirty-Nine Steps*

Rupert Brooke's *1914 and Other Poems* is published a few months after his death in Greece

William Joseph Simmons, a suspended Methodist preacher in Georgia, wins a big racist following in the south with his revival of the defunct Ku Klux Klan

Einstein submits a paper, *The field equations of gravitation*, containing the sums required to explain the general theory of relativity

Petrograd buzzes with rumours about Rasputin's dissolute life, including salacious hints that he is the lover of the empress Alexandra

January - Winston Churchill is heavily involved in a bold plan to secure Allied access through the Dardanelles to the Black Sea

January - Germans make an experimental but ineffective use of chlorine gas against the Russians in Poland

January 19 - a Zeppelin airship makes a night-time bombing raid on the English port of Great Yarmouth

January 24 - the German battle cruiser *Blücher* is sunk by the British off the Dogger Bank

January 30 - two passenger liners are sunk by German U-boats

February - British and French forces invade and capture the German colony of Cameroon

Winston Churchill is a firm supporter of a new invention, the tank, encouraging its initial development while still at the Admiralty

March - a typhus epidemic sweeps through Serbia, severely weakening the nation's armed forces

March 18 - British and French battleships are sunk by mines in the Dardanelles, with the loss of 620 French sailors on one of them

March 21 - two German Zeppelin airships bomb Paris, causing 23 deaths

April - in a secret pact, signed in London, Italy is promised territorial gains if she joins the Allied side

April 1 - the French aviator Roland Garros fires a machine gun through the propeller in his fighter plane, using metal plates to deflect any bullets that hit the propeller

April 22 - the Germans attempt an advance on the western front, launching the second battle of Ypres

April 22-23 - the Germans gain ground at Ypres after the first significant use of chlorine gas

April 25 - British and French troops, together with the Australian and New Zealander Army Corps (ANZAC), land in Gallipoli

May - Italy revokes the Triple Alliance of 1882 that aligned her with Germany and Austria-Hungary

May 7 - the British passenger liner *Lusitania* is sunk by a U-boat, with the loss of 1000 civilian lives

May 23 - Italy declares war against Austria-Hungary, but not as yet against Germany

May 31 - a German Zeppelin airship makes the first bombing raid on London

from May - hundreds of thousands of Armenians die as the Turks forcibly remove them from their homelands

June - Dutch aircraft designer Anton Fokker, working for the Germans, vastly improves the Roland Garros technique for firing machine guns through the propellers of fighter planes

July - South African troops capture German South West Africa

July - German fighter planes are armed with new machine guns synchronized to fire between the revolving propeller blades

July 30 the Germans make their first effective use of a new weapon, the flame thrower, in an attack on the British in the second battle of Ypres

from July - the Russians advance through Turkish Armenia and push west into Anatolia as far as Trabzon

September 18 - the emperor Nicholas II moves to military HQ to take personal command of the Russian armies

September 25 - the British use chlorine gas for the first time in an attack on Loos, but in places it is blown back over the British lines when the wind changes

October 5 - French and British troops land at Salonika and push north to relieve Serbia

October 9 - Austria-Hungary renews its attack on Serbia, and its troops capture Belgrade

October 12 - the English nurse Edith Cavell is court-martialled and executed by German forces in Belgium

October 14 - Bulgaria, hoping to gain territory in disputed Macedonia, declares war on Serbia

October - the Serbian army flees, abandoning Serbia to Austrian and Bulgarian invaders

November 22 - a British and Indian force is defeated by the Turks at Ctesiphon, on the bank of the Tigris

December - German armies make sufficient advances to drive the Russians out of Poland

December - Allied troops begin a withdrawal from the Dardanelles after the abject failure of the Gallipoli campaign

from December - the 225-horsepower Eagle, the first of many Rolls-Royce aero-engines, is used to power British bombers

1916

Wartime income tax soars in Britain to an unprecedented 30%

New Zealand surgeon Harold Gillies sets up a plastic surgery unit at Aldershot, a British military base

The opera *Goyescas*, by Spanish composer Enrique Granados, has its premiere in New York

Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg found the radical Spartacus League, named after the gladiator

Ras Tafari, a member of the Ethiopian imperial family, deposes his distant relation the emperor and puts on the throne his aunt, Zauditu

Max Aitken, later Lord Beaverbrook, buys a controlling share in the British newspaper the *Daily Express*

Haiti becomes a US protectorate, under the terms of a treaty signed in the previous year

Enrique Granados, on the last leg of his return from New York, is one of many civilians to die when the *Sussex* is torpedoed by a U-boat in the English Channel

The election of Hipolito Irigoyen as president begins sixteen years of radical government in Argentina

Earth's the right place for love' in Robert Frost's 'Birches', included in his collection *Mountain Interval*

The occupation of the General Post Office in Dublin marks the beginning of the Easter

Rising

The rebel leader Patrick Pearse stands under the portico of Dublin's General Post Office to announce the birth of the Irish republic

Roger Casement is arrested after returning secretly to Ireland three days before the Easter Rising

Eamon de Valera comes to prominence as one of the republican leaders in the Easter Rising

The National Parks Service is set up within the US Department of the Interior

Britain and France sign the secret Sykes-Picot Agreement, dividing up spheres of influence in the Middle East

The Provincetown Players are founded in Massachusetts, opening with a production of Eugene O'Neill's *Bound East for Cardiff*

In his first World Series for the Boston Red Sox, 21-year-old Babe Ruth sets a still unbroken record, pitching 13 successive scoreless innings

The Villa Schwob is completed, the last house designed by Le Corbusier in La Chaux-de-Fonds and one of the first in the world to use reinforced concrete

The success of *Jenufa* in Prague finally brings international recognition to Leos Janacek, already in his sixties

Patrick Pearse and his fellow Irish rebel James Connolly are executed by firing squad

Woodrow Wilson sends the marines to maintain order when the Dominican Republic slips towards civil war

The US National Defense Act establishes the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC)

Manuel de Falla completes his piece for piano and orchestra, *Nights in the Gardens of Spain*

"If You Were the Only Girl in the World" features in the London musical *The Bing Boys are Here*

In his *Course in General Linguistics* Ferdinand de Saussure provides the basis for the broader development of structuralism

William Boeing flies an aircraft built by himself, and a month later sets up in Seattle his own Aero Product company

Three members of the Russian imperial family assassinate the influential charlatan Grigory Rasputin

The Passing Show of 1916 is the first of 22 musicals written in the short span of 17 years by the brothers George and Ira Gershwin

Ottorino Respighi completes his symphonic poem for orchestra *Fountains of Rome*, first performed in Rome the following year

Hubert Parry sets profoundly evocative verses by William Blake and gives his composition the title *Jerusalem*

Maxim Gorky publishes *My Apprenticeship*, the second volume of his autobiography

Tristan Tzara and other artists in Zurich call their new movement Dada (the French for 'hobby-horse', selected at random from a dictionary)

Gustav Holst completes his orchestral suite *c*, not performed in its entirety until 1920

In his ground-breaking film *Intolerance* D.W. Griffith intercuts four parallel stories from different historical periods

Robert Graves publishes his first book of poems, *Over the Brazier*

The musical *Chu Chin Chow* opens at His Majesty's Theatre in London and runs for a record 2235 performances

The Imagist poet H.D. (Hilda Doolittle) publishes her first collection, *Sea Garden*

Claude Monet begins the great cyclorama of water-lilies, *Nympheas*, that he donates to the French nation

Margaret Sanger opens the first US birth control clinic, in a poor district of Brooklyn, and is gaoled for thirty days

Manchester dramatist Harold Brighouse has a major success when his play *Hobson's Choice* is performed in London

After an 800-mile journey in an open boat Ernest Shackleton returns to rescue his stranded colleagues in the South Shetlands

The Federal-Aid Highway Act sets up the first national road system in the US

The author H.H. Munro ('Saki') is killed by a sniper's bullet on a battlefield in France

Dogs are trained in Germany, by Dr Gerhard Stalling, to guide soldiers blinded in the war

Lloyd George splits his own Liberal party when he forms a coalition government with the Conservatives

Captain Peter Nissen, a Canadian mining engineer, designs the Nissen Hut for the Allied armies

British and French forces win full control of the German colonies of Togoland and Cameroon

February 21 - a German thrust against the French begins the year-long battle of Verdun

Feb 26 - a French troopship *La Provence* is torpedoed by a U-boat off Cape Matapan and sinks with the loss of nearly 1000 lives

March 2 - conscription is introduced in Britain for men aged between 18 and 40

March 24 - a German U-boat sinks the Channel steamer *Sussex*, with the loss of many civilian lives

April 29 - the British garrison at Kut, on the Tigris, surrenders to the Turks after a five-month siege

May 31 - the German and British fleets clash off Jutland, in a hard-fought but inconclusive encounter

June 4 - Aleksei Brusilov leads a surprise Russian offensive against Germany and Austria-Hungary

June 5 - Sharif Hussein, the emir of Mecca, proclaims himself the leader of the Muslim world, thus launching an Arab revolt against the Ottoman empire

June 17 - Belgian troops from the Congo occupy the German colony of Ruanda-Urundi

June 24 - an Allied advance in the valley of the Somme launches a four-month battle with

very heavy casualties

June 27 - Greece joins the Allies by declaring war on Bulgaria

August 20 - a brief success in the front line against Austria prompts Italy to declare war on Germany

August 27 - Romania, hoping for territorial gains from Hungary, joins the war on the side of the Allies

September 15 - eleven British tanks go into pioneering but ineffective action at the battle of the Somme

September 17 - Baron von Richthofen, the 'Red Baron', shoots down the first of many Allied aircraft

November 7 - Woodrow Wilson wins re-election as US president after campaigning on the slogan 'He kept us out of war'

November 21 - the emperor Francis Joseph dies after 66 years on the thrones of Austria and Hungary, to be succeeded by his great-nephew Charles I

December 6 - Bucharest, the capital of Romania, is captured by Austrian and Bulgarian forces

December 6 - Herbert Asquith resigns in the face of a political coup against him, and is replaced as UK prime minister by Lloyd George

December 16 - Philippe Pétain becomes a French national hero for his successful defence of Verdun

1917

Marcel Duchamp submits a ceramic urinal to the Society of Independent Artists in New York, giving it the title *Fountain*

The French poet Guillaume Apollinaire is the first to use the term Surrealism

New York responds with enthusiasm when the Original Dixieland Jazz Band performs a new kind of music in Reisenweber's restaurant

The Jones Act gives Puerto Ricans US citizenship and a popularly elected Senate and House of Representatives

Jeeves and Bertie Wooster make their first appearance in P.G. Wodehouse's *The Man with Two Left Feet*

John Ireland's Second Violin Concerto meets with immediate approval

Silent film comedian Harold Lloyd adopts the glasses and the straw hat that become his familiar props

Wounded at the front on the Somme, the poet Wilfred Owen is invalided home to Britain

Amedeo Modigliani's first Paris exhibition is immediately closed by the police because it contains paintings of nudes

Parade brings together Massine (choreography), Satie (music), Cocteau (libretto) and Picasso (sets and costumes)

Piet Mondrian and other Dutch artists establish the movement known as De Stijl, together with a magazine of the same name

Eamon de Valera, newly released from prison, is elected to lead Sinn Féin

Manuel de Falla's ballet *The Three-Cornered Hat* is produced by Diaghilev with choreography by Massine and designs by Picasso

Comedian Buster Keaton makes his first appearance in a film, *The Butcher Boy*

The first annual prizes are awarded, under the terms of Joseph Pulitzer's will, for the best new US novel, play, history and biography

Australia Felix is the first in Henry Handel Richardson's trilogy of novels about her father

Race riots against migrant southern blacks in East St Louis, Missouri, leave forty-eight dead

Foreign Secretary A.J. Balfour declares Britain's conditional support for a homeland in Palestine for the Jews

Chequers, in the Chilterns, is privately donated to the nation to become the British prime minister's country residence

Otto Klemperer starts a seven-year spell as music director of Cologne opera, and begins to acquire an international reputation

Paul Valéry wins praise for his long symbolic poem *La Jeune Parque*

A massive explosion devastates Halifax, in Canada, after a collision involving a French munitions ship

The US Congress passes the Eighteenth Amendment, legislating for the introduction of Prohibition

Anti-German feeling causes the British royal family to adopt the name Windsor instead of Saxe-Coburg & Gotha

March - German troops on the western front begin withdrawal to the recently constructed

defences of the Hindenburg Line

March 1 - a deciphered telegram, from the German foreign minister Arthur Zimmermann, inflames US public opinion by promising Texas and more to Mexico

March 10 - a mutiny by soldiers, in support of Petrograd demonstrators, proves a turning point in Russia's February revolution

March 11 - the British commander Stanley Maude captures Baghdad from the Turks

March 11 - crowds demonstrating in Petrograd are fired on after tsar Nicholas II sanctions the use of force

March 12 - an uprising in Petrograd brings the Peter and Paul fortress into the hands of the rebels

March 15 - with his capital city in the hands of rebels, tsar Nicholas II abdicates

March 15 - the Petrograd Soviet demands drastic reforms in return for supporting the proposed Provisional Government in Russia

March 15 - Prince Georgi Lvov becomes prime minister in Russia's new Provisional Government

April - the German authorities allow Lenin to travel home from Switzerland through Germany, hoping for Communist disruption of the Russian war effort

April - Lenin expounds in Petrograd the new theory of his April Theses, predicting the possibility of imminent revolution

April 6 - Woodrow Wilson, president of the USA, declares war on Germany

April - Trotsky hurries back to Russia from exile in the United States

April - German U-boats sink 430 Allied and neutral merchant ships in this month alone

April 12 - Canadian troops take Vimy Ridge, subsequently the site of Canada's most important war memorial

June - the Allies frustrate the German U-boats by introducing the convoy system

June - a Russian summer offensive against the Germans results in massive loss of life and territory

July 6 - T.E. Lawrence and an Arab force surprise the Turkish garrison at Aqaba and win an overwhelming victory

July 17 (O.S. July 4) - an armed uprising in Petrograd disperses after Lenin declines to give support

July - Trotsky is imprisoned and Lenin flees to Finland as Russia's Provisional Government cracks down on the Bolsheviks

July 21 - Prince Lvov steps down as head of the Provisional Government in Russia and is replaced by Alexander Kerensky

July 31 - Haig sends British troops over the top in the third battle of Ypres

August - Kerensky dismisses Kornilov as commander-in-chief, antagonizing the right wing in Russia

September - Russian opinion polarizes, with support growing for left-wing Bolsheviks and right-wing Kadets

September - Trotsky, released from prison, stages a coup to win Bolshevik control of the Petrograd Soviet

October - Lenin, in disguise, returns from Finland to Petrograd, where he hides in the flat of a party worker

October 23 - Lenin persuades the Bolshevik central committee to vote for an armed insurrection

October 15 - the dancer Mata Hari is executed in France as a German spy

October 24 - a victory at Caporetto enables the Austrian army to penetrate far into northeast Italy

November - women are enlisted into Britain's army (Women's Auxiliary Corps) and navy (Women's Royal Naval Service)

November 3 (October 21 O.S.) - the soldiers of the Petrograd garrison mutiny on being ordered to the front

November 5 (October 23 O.S.) - the Peter and Paul fortress is taken, giving the Bolsheviks control of Petrograd

November 6 - British and Canadian infantry, slithering through a morass of mud, capture the village of Passchendaele

November 7 - Edmund Allenby takes the Palestinian town of Gaza, at the third British attempt

November 7 (October 26 O.S.) - Bolsheviks storm the Winter Palace in Petrograd and arrest the ministers of the Provisional Government

November 8 - Lenin issues a Decree of Peace, inviting Russia's enemies to enter into

immediate peace negotiations

November 8 (October 26 O.S) - Lenin's Decree on Land abolishes private ownership of large estates and promises the land to the peasants

November 8-12 - the Bolsheviks attempt to stifle opposition in the run-up to the election for Russia's new Constituent Assembly

November 20 - suitable ground is selected by the British at the battle of Cambrai for the first serious deployment of their new tanks

December - the Cheka (origin of the KGB) is established to suppress political dissent in Russia

December - wartime scarcity causes sugar rationing to be imposed in Britain, to be followed soon by meat and butter and related products

December 9 - the British commander Edmund Allenby captures Jerusalem from its Turkish defenders

1918

Béla Bartók's opera *Duke Bluebeard's Castle* is finally staged in Budapest, nine years after its composition

The British viceroy in Dublin imprisons 73 Sinn Féin leaders, including Eamon de Valera, on allegations of a German plot

British women are at last given the right to vote, but only if aged 30 or over

Wafd, a national party, is formed in Cairo with the purpose of ending Egypt's enforced link with Britain

Lytton Strachey fails to show conventional respect to four famous Victorians in his influential volume of short biographies entitled *Eminent Victorians*

In Alexander Blok's poem *The Twelve*, Christ leads his apostles in support of Russia's revolution

Rebecca West publishes her first novel, *The Return of the Soldier*

The Russian artist Kasimir Malevich begins a series of *White on White* paintings

Marie Stopes, a committed advocate of birth control, publishes *Married Love*, a frank discussion of sexual relations

Eric Gill completes his *Stations of the Cross* for Westminster Cathedral

Dutch designer Gerrit Rietveld produces his 'Red and Blue Chair', under the influence of the De Stijl movement

Wilfred Owen, having returned to the front, is killed by machine-gun fire a week before the end of the war

In *My Antonia* Willa Cather's heroine survives setbacks on the Nebraska frontier

Countess Markiewicz, an Irish republican, is elected a member of Britain's House of Commons but refuses to take her seat

Lloyd George, fighting the British general election as head of a coalition, devastates the Liberal opposition

January - supporters of the old regime within the Russian army prepare to use force against the new Bolshevik regime

January 8 - President Woodrow Wilson formulates fourteen detailed proposals as a basis for world peace once the conflict has ended

January 19 - Lenin dissolves the elected assembly in Petrograd to establish a one-party Soviet state

March - Lavr Kornilov leads the heroic Ice March which boosts the morale of the White Russians

March - the Bolsheviks, now in power, change their name to the more resounding Russian Communist Party

March 3 - at Brest-Litovsk Lenin signs a peace treaty with Germany and Austria, ceding vast territories and valuable resources

March 10 - Lenin moves the capital of Russia from Petrograd back to Moscow

March 13 - Trotsky, given the task of creating an army for the Bolsheviks, conscripts peasants from the villages

April 21 - the German air ace Baron von Richthofen is finally shot down, after himself destroying 80 Allied planes

May - women are enlisted in Britain's air force, in the newly formed WRAF (Women's Royal Air Force)

May - US troops are by now fighting in large numbers on the western front

from June - Faisal and T.E. Lawrence pin down a Turkish army in a campaign of guerrilla warfare

Russia's peasants, victims of White and Red Terror, suffer atrocities from both sides in the civil war

Civil war enables the Bolsheviks to impose a rigid system of state control on the Russian

economy, through War Communism and Food Brigades

July 8 - Hermann Goering, a fighter ace who has shot down 22 Allied aircraft by the end of the war, becomes commander of the Richthofen Squadron

July 17 - Tsar Nicholas II and his wife and children are murdered by the Bolsheviks at Ekaterinburg

July 18 - the Allies hold the Germans on the Marne and begin a successful counterattack with tanks

August - a world-wide pandemic of influenza breaks out, and within the space of a year kills 30 million people

August 4 - Adolf Hitler is awarded the Iron Cross, First Class, a decoration rarely given to a corporal

September - the Allies, with Serb troops in the vanguard, press north from Salonika into Serbia

September 29 - the Bulgarians, driven from Serbia, sign an armistice with the Allies

October 1 - after a victory at the historic battle site of Megiddo, Allenby captures the city of Damascus

October 4 - the Kaiser appoints a new chancellor, Prince Max von Baden, to negotiate an end to the war

October 5 - the new German chancellor, Prince Max of Baden, sends a message to President Wilson requesting an immediate armistice

October 5 - the British, under Douglas Haig, break through Germany's heavily defended Hindenburg Line

October 30 - an armistice is signed between Turkey and the Allies on the warship *Agamemnon* in the Greek port of Mudros

October 30 - a mutiny in Germany's fleet in Kiel sparks uprisings in several German cities

November 7 - Austria-Hungary signs a separate armistice with the Allied powers, in a villa near Padua, without waiting for the Germans

November 8 - the Allied commander-in chief, Marshal Foch, meets a German delegation in a railway carriage in the forest of Compiègne to discuss an armistice

November 9 - Friedrich Ebert, leader of the Social Democrats, becomes the first chancellor of the newly proclaimed German republic

November 9 - the Spartacus League proclaims a rival German republic on soviet lines

November 10 - Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates and goes into exile in the Netherlands

November 11 - the Allies and the Germans finally agree the terms of an armistice at 5 a.m.

November 11 - the war ends with the official cessation of hostilities at 11 a.m., the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month

November 13 - the deposition of the emperor Charles I by the Austrian government brings to a formal end the empire of Austria-Hungary and more than six centuries of Habsburg rule

November 13 - with the end of the Habsburg empire, German-speaking Austrians declare their own much smaller territory to be an independent republic

November 14 - the new nation of Czechoslovakia is established from within Austria-

Hungary, with Tomas Masaryk as its first president

November 16 - prime minister Mihaly Karolyi proclaims the republic of Hungary, after the demise of Austria-Hungary

November 23 - Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck, commander of the German army in East Africa, surrenders after four stubborn years of resistance

December 1 - Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia and Montenegro merge as the new Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, with the Serbian Peter I as king

1914-1918

The Great War has resulted in some 8 million dead in the armed forces of the rival nations

Approximately 7 million civilians are calculated to have died as a direct result of the four years of war

1919

January 4 - Finland wins freedom from Russia and becomes an independent republic

Composer and pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski becomes prime minister of the newly independent Poland

The Sinn Fein members elected to Westminster establish their own parliament in Dublin, the Dáil Eireann (Assembly of Ireland), soon declared illegal by Britain

The armed supporters of Sinn Fein become the IRA, or Irish Republican Army, in Ireland's war of independence

Quia Pauper Amavi contains the first three of Ezra Pound's eventually more than 100 cantos

Michael Collins springs de Valera from Lincoln gaol, with the help of a duplicate key

Returning from active service with the Royal Navy, Erskine Childers devotes his energies to

Sinn Fein and Irish independence

Mussolini founds the Fasci di Combattimento, dedicated to opposing the Socialist party

Edward Elgar completes his last great work, the Cello Concerto in E minor

More than 300 die when British troops fire on a peaceful demonstration in Amritsar

H.L. Mencken's *The American Language* traces the gradual evolution of American from English

The Swiss theologian Karl Barth publishes his influential *Commentary on Romans*, taking St Paul's epistle as his text

The Soviet system of Gulag slave labour camps is introduced, under the control of the secret service, the Cheka

Music-hall artist Harry Lauder is knighted for his wartime performances entertaining troops at the front

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk leads resistance to the Greek invasion of western Turkey

Employers' refusal to allow collective bargaining prompts a general strike in Winnipeg, the largest dispute of its kind in Canada's history

Léonide Massine, Ottorino Respighi and André Derain collaborate on the ballet *La Boutique Fantasque*

John Alcock and Arthur Whitten Brown fly from St John's in Newfoundland to Clifden in Ireland

Mussolini's Fascist party rapidly acquires an aggressive presence, thanks to his gangs of

armed thugs in their blackshirt uniforms

US boxer Jack Dempsey defeats Jess Willard for the world heavyweight title, sending him from the ring with a broken jaw

At least thirty-eight people are killed in a race riot in Chicago

Adolf Hitler joins the tiny German Workers' party, the members of which share his own virulent anti-Semitism

French poets Louis Aragon and André Breton launch *Littérature*, a surrealist review

The League of Nations makes South West Africa (Namibia) a mandated British territory, to be administered by South Africa

Afghanistan finally achieves international recognition as an independent nation

Lillian Gish stars as a Cockney girl in D.W. Griffith's inter-racial film romance *Broken Blossoms*, set in London's slums

Nancy Astor, as MP for Plymouth, becomes the first woman to take her seat in Britain's House of Commons

On the death of Louis Botha, Jan Smuts succeeds him as prime minister of South Africa

The port of Fiume, belonging to Yugoslavia, is seized by Gabriele d'Annunzio and 300 Italian volunteers

Steelworkers go on strike in the US, attempting a major confrontation with industrial management

Walter Gropius becomes director of the newly formed Bauhaus in Weimar

President Woodrow Wilson suffers a severe stroke that renders him largely incapable during the final seventeen months of his presidency

Marcel Duchamp adds a moustache and beard to a postcard of the Mona Lisa, and gives it the subtly offensive French title *LHOOQ*

In *The Economic Consequences of the Peace* Maynard Keynes publishes a strong attack on the reparations demanded from Germany

A White army, advancing on Moscow, is stopped about 250 miles from the city

The actors Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks and Charlie Chaplin establish United Artists with the director D.W. Griffith

A White army occupies hills overlooking Petrograd before being driven back by Trotsky

Canadian National Railways is formed from two of the country's largest rail systems

The phrase Abstract Expressionism is first used, describing the work of Wassily Kandinsky

Darius Milhaud provides the score for Jean Cocteau's pantomime ballet *Le Boeuf sur le toit*

John Singer Sargent completes *Gassed*, a powerful image of one of the particular horrors of the recent war

The prime minister of Poland, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, resigns his post so as to concentrate on his concert career

Boston Red Sox sell their star player, Babe Ruth, to the New York Yankees for \$125,000

Sherwood Anderson establishes a reputation with a collection of short stories, *Winesburg, Ohio*

January 1 - the Spartacus League transforms itself into the Communist party of Germany

January 6 - a vast crowd, assembling in Berlin, calls for a revolution and begins to seize public buildings

January 15 - after ten days of street fighting in Berlin, Spartacus leaders Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg are captured and shot

January 18 - the delegates to the peace conference in Paris, mainly concerned with the terms to be imposed on Germany, hold their first session

February - Hitler returns to Munich and in the prevailing mood of post-defeat resentment begins to take an interest in extremist politics

February - the German assembly meets in Weimar and elects Ebert as president of the new republic

April - delegates to the Paris peace conference unanimously establish the League of Nations

June 21 - German sailors scuttle every one of the fifty warships held by the British in Scapa Flow

June 28 - the peace treaty with Germany, ending the world war, is signed in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles

June 28 - the Versailles Treaty declares that Germany must pay reparations for wartime damages, with the precise amount to be decided by May 1921

June 28 - the peace-makers in Paris assign the Sudetenland, with its 3.5 million German-

speaking inhabitants, to the new republic of Czechoslovakia

June 28 - the Versailles Treaty makes Danzig (or Gdansk) a free city (from 10 January 1920), under the protection of the League of Nations

June 28 - the Versailles Treaty provides a corridor of land to give Poland access to Danzig and the Baltic, thereby dividing two parts of Germany

June 28 - the German-speaking inhabitants of South Tirol are incorporated within Italy under the Versailles peace terms

June 28 - German East Africa is to be governed by Britain as Tanganyika, under a League of Nations mandate

To President Wilson's profound disappointment the US Congress, by failing to ratify the treaty of Versailles, opts out of the League of Nations

1920

Prohibition comes into effect in the USA, three months after the Volstead Act has provided guidelines for enforcement

The US steel strike collapses after four months, with nothing achieved

A right-wing military putsch seizes power for a few days in Berlin

Ezra Pound publishes *Hugh Selwyn Mauberley*, a poem that reflects on the practice of poetry itself

After several less successful novels, the French writer Colette makes her reputation with *Chéri*

Marie Rambert, a Polish dancer with the Ballets Russes, opens a ballet school in London

A plebiscite in Schleswig establishes the border between Denmark and Germany

Edith Wharton publishes her best-known novel, *The Age of Innocence*

Vladimir Tatlin's model for a gigantic Monument to the Third International becomes one of the most significant examples of Constructivism

A national congress in Damascus proclaims Faisal king of an independent Syria

Bristol-born actor Cary Grant moves to the USA with a troupe of touring tumblers

Destour is formed as a nationalist party in Tunisia, demanding full independence from France

The Japanese potter Shoji Hamada accompanies Bernard Leach on his return to England

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is elected president of Turkey's new Grand National Assembly

The Meccano company launches the first of its Hornby model trains

Sapper's patriotic hero makes his first appearance, taking on the villainous Carl Peterson in *Bull-dog Drummond*

The publication of Scott FitzGerald's first novel, *This Side of Paradise*, brings him instant success

The Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution guarantees women the right to vote

Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart work together as Columbia University students, creating the musical *Fly With Me*

A Communist uprising in the Ruhr is suppressed with difficulty by the German army

Artists dedicated to celebrating the Canadian landscape come together as the Group of Seven

The Haganah is set up as an underground military organization to protect Jewish settlements in Palestine

Charles Ives publishes his *Piano Sonata No. 2, Concord, Mass., 1840-60*, usually known as the *Concord Sonata*

The German Workers' Party, with Adolf Hitler as one of its leading members, changes its name to the Nazi party

French intervention in Syria forces Faisal off the throne and out of the country

Charles-édouard Jeanneret launches and edits a radical architectural journal, *L'Esprit Nouveau*

The Swiss architect Charles-édouard Jeanneret adopts the simpler Le Corbusier as a pseudonym in *L'Esprit Nouveau*

A Chilean poet, Ricardo Reyes, adopts the pen name Pablo Neruda

D.H. Lawrence's *Women in Love*, a continuation of the family story in *The Rainbow*, is published first in the USA

The Government of Ireland Act provides for separate devolved parliaments in southern Ireland and the six counties of Ulster

The Marconi studio in the English town of Chelmsford broadcasts Dame Nellie Melba live

to Europe and to ships on the Atlantic

A group of composers in Paris - Auric, Durey, Honegger, Milhaud, Poulenc and Tailleferre - become known as 'les Six'

The brutal behaviour of the British police reinforcements, the Black and Tans, aggravates the violence in Ireland

Gustav Holst's *Hymn of Jesus* has its premiere in London, conducted by the composer

New Zealand surgeon Harold Gillies publishes a pioneering text book, *Plastic Surgery of the Face*

Douglas Fairbanks makes the first of his swashbuckling adventure movies, *The Mark of Zorro*

The Belgian detective Hercule Poirot features in Agatha Christie's first book, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*

The marriage of Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks is a Hollywood sensation after a three-year affair

Warren Harding wins the US presidential election for the Republicans

The civil war ends as the last White army on Russian soil escapes from the Crimea

The IRA and the British security forces clash during a violent 'Bloody Sunday' in Dublin

Ten years of violent revolution in Mexico are brought to an end in a successful coup by Alvaro Obregón

Italian troops drive Gabriele d'Annunzio and his followers from Fiume, which they have

occupied for more than a year

On his return to Britain from the far east, Bernard Leach sets up a pottery studio in St Ives

The American novelist Sinclair Lewis has his first major success with *Main Street*, an unflattering portrayal of American village life

May - League of Nations mandates give Britain responsibility for Iraq, Transjordan and Palestine

May - League of Nations mandates give France responsibility for Syria and Lebanon

August - a punitive peace treaty, negotiated at Sèvres, is designed to dismember the Ottoman empire

August 10 - the sultan of Turkey signs the Treaty of Sèvres with the Allies but it is rejected by the new nationalist government

November 11 - the body of an Unknown Warrior, selected at random from British war graves, is buried at the entrance to Westminster Abbey

November 11 - the body of an unknown French soldier is laid to rest in a chapel within the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, and a few weeks later is buried at ground level beneath the arch

1921

The schooner *Bluenose* begins a long series of international racing victories for Canada

James Craig succeeds Edward Carson as leader of the Ulster Unionist party in northern Ireland

An army officer, Reza Khan, becomes war minister after seizing control of Tehran with his Cossack brigade

The first traces are found of a major but entirely forgotten civilization in the Indus valley

With massive force, and huge casualties, Lenin puts an end to a naval mutiny at Kronstadt

Marie Stopes and her husband set up in London a Mothers' Clinic for Birth Control, the first of its kind in Britain

Abdullah ibn Hussein, of the Hashemite family, becomes emir of the new province of Transjordan

In a major economic U-turn, Lenin's New Economic Policy allows peasants to hold markets and sell the surplus of their product

The commission considering the level of Germany's war reparations to the Allies decides on \$33 billion

Some 50,000 peasants are herded into Russia's first concentration camps

Within a five-week period the Italian playwright Luigi Pirandello writes two masterpieces, *Six Characters in Search of an Author* immediately followed by *Henry IV*

The republican party Sinn Fein is unopposed in southern Ireland's first general election, and so wins every available seat in the Dail

Mussolini and 35 of his Fascist colleagues win seats in the Italian parliament

The Sinn Fein members of southern Ireland's new parliament assemble on their own, under the name Dáil Eireann (Assembly of Ireland)

The Young Kikuyu Association is formed in Kenya, to fight for African rights and the restoration of Kikuyu land

Alfred Adler, in Vienna, opens the first of many child-guidance clinics

The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland appoints James Craig the first prime minister of the new Northern Ireland Parliament

Paul Klee becomes a teacher at the Bauhaus in Weimar

Franklin Delano Roosevelt is paralyzed from the waist down by polio

The Czech playwright Karel Capek gives the world the term 'robot', in the title of his play *Rossum's Universal Robots*

Russian author Maxim Gorky goes abroad for medical treatment and lives for the next seven years in Italy

The Parliament of Northern Ireland convenes for the first time

James Craig (later Lord Craigavon) begins a 19-year term as prime minister of the new province of Northern Ireland

Envoys sent to London by de Valera agree independence for southern Ireland as the Irish Free State, with Dominion status

The Anglo-Irish Treaty, agreed in London, ends the war between the British army and the IRA

The Swiss architect Le Corbusier begins a 20-year partnership with his cousin, Pierre Jeanneret

Adolf Hitler becomes leader of the Nazi party, which now has about 3000 members

Italian immigrant anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti are convicted of murder in a US trial

flawed by prejudice

Mao Zedong leads a delegation to the First Congress of the Chinese Communist Party in Shanghai

Tulsa race riots cap previous levels of violence, with more than eighty-five blacks killed

The British parliament ratifies the Anglo-Irish treaty, but de Valera repudiates it and resigns as president of the Dáil

Italian sex symbol Rudolph Valentino has two sensational hits within the same year, *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* and *The Sheik*

Faisal, having lost Syria, is given the throne in the British mandated territory of Iraq

Somerset Maugham's short story 'Rain' (in his collection *The Trembling of a Leaf*) introduces the lively American prostitute Sadie Thompson

The British airship R-38 bursts into flames on its fourth flight and crashes into the Humber

Abd-el-Krim wins a sensational victory over Spanish forces in Morocco and gains control of the Rif

Marianne Moore calls her first published collection simply *Poems*

Ludwig Wittgenstein publishes his influential study of the philosophy of logic, *Tractatus Logico Philosophicus*

Taras Bulba, a rhapsody for orchestra by Leos Janacek, is first performed in Brno

Janacek's opera *Kátja Kabanová*, based on Ostrovsky's play *The Storm*, has its premiere in

Brno

Eugene O'Neill's play *Anna Christie* is performed in New York

W.L. Mackenzie King begins a nine-year spell as Canadian prime minister, albeit with a brief interruption in 1926

Agnes Macphail becomes the first woman to sit in Canada's parliament

November 11 - the first of America's 'unknown soldiers' is placed in the new Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery

1922

James Joyce's novel *Ulysses* is published in Paris, by Sylvia Beach, because of censorship problems elsewhere

Ambrogio Ratti is elected pope and takes the name Pius XI

The Marconi company in England pioneers a regular broadcasting service from its 2MT radio station near Chelmsford

De Witt Wallace and his wife, working from home, publish the first issue of *Reader's Digest*

Robert J. Flaherty lives with the Inuit in the Arctic to make his dramatized documentary *Nanook of the North*

Egypt becomes an independent kingdom, subject to a British military presence to protect the Suez canal

Mahatma Gandhi is arrested by the British in India as an agitator and is sentenced to six years in prison

French fashion designer Gabrielle 'Coco' Chanel introduces a very successful perfume,

calling it Chanel No. 5

Lenin creates a powerful new post for Joseph Stalin, as General Secretary of the Communist Party

The reputation of UK prime minister Lloyd George suffers severely when he is accused of selling peerages so as to build up a personal political fund

Lenin has a stroke, removing him for five months from active control of party and state

The US architectural critic Lewis Mumford publishes *The Story of Utopias*, the first of his many influential works

Wassily Kandinsky takes up a teaching post at the Bauhaus in Weimar

Diego Rivera, returning from his study of Italian frescoes, begins the first of his influential murals depicting Mexican history

Marina Tsvetaeva completes an anti-Soviet cycle of poems, *The Encampment of the Swans*

Winston Churchill buys Chartwell, a house in Kent that remains his home until his death

D.H. Lawrence takes a house in Sydney, where he writes the bulk of his novel *Kangaroo*

The League of Nations introduces the Nansen Passport for stateless persons

William Walton and Edith Sitwell give a private performance of their entertainment *Façade*, setting poems by Sitwell

Sinclair Lewis creates an archetypal character in George Follansbee Babbitt, a real-estate broker in the Midwestern town of Zenith

British manufacturer Herbert Austin launches Britain's first car for the popular market, the Austin Seven or 'Baby Austin'

In elections to the Dáil the pro-treaty faction of Collins and Griffith defeats the opposition, led by de Valera

Germany is the first nation to re-establish full diplomatic relations with Russia

Linus Pauling, a graduate student at the California Institute of Technology, begins theoretical work on the nature of the chemical bond

US golfer Walter Hagen wins the first of his four victories in the British Open

Bitter war breaks out between factions of the IRA supporting and opposing the Anglo-Irish Treaty

John Reith becomes general manager of the newly formed British Broadcasting Company

Boris Pasternak makes his name with his third volume of poems, *My Sister Life*

Stalin devises the structure for a new federal state, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)

Thomas Mann publishes a fragment of his *Confessions of Felix Krull, Confidence Man*

The Broadway show *Ziegfeld Follies* features an exciting new dance, the Charleston

John Galsworthy publishes his novels about the Forsyte family as a joint collection under the title *The Forsyte Saga*

The Irish Free State takes stringent measures against rebel terrorism, making possession even of a pistol a capital offence

After Michael Collins is killed in an ambush, William Cosgrave and Kevin O'Higgins emerge as leaders of the Irish Free State

The League of Nations gives France and Britain mandates to govern separate areas of the German colony of Cameroon

France and Britain are given a League of Nations mandate to govern separate areas of the German colony of Togoland

The German conductor Wilhelm Furtwängler is appointed to the Berlin Philharmonic, and spends most of the rest of his life with the orchestra

The Teapot Dome scandal reveals corruption in the administration of US president Warren Harding

American-born poet T.S. Eliot publishes *The Waste Land*, an extremely influential poem in five fragmented sections

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk wins a long campaign to expel the Greeks, authorized by the victorious Allies to occupy western Turkey

Lloyd George loses his majority in the House of Commons when the Conservatives vote in a Carlton Club meeting to withdraw from his coalition

Mussolini gives orders for armed squads to congregate around Rome, in preparation for a march to seize power in the capital

German film director Ernst Lubitsch moves to Hollywood, at the request of Mary Pickford

The Italian king Victor Emmanuel III, alarmed at the prospect of a Fascist march on Rome,

asks Mussolini to form a government

A triumphant Mussolini arrives in Rome on the overnight train from Milan to take up his appointment as prime minister

Columns of blackshirts, brought into Rome for the day, parade before Mussolini and the king

The nationalist government in Turkey abolishes the sultanate and the last Ottoman emperor, Mehmed VI, goes into exile

Howard Carter exposes a flight of steps in the Valley of the Kings and comes to a barrier bearing the name Tutankhamun

The British Broadcasting company launches a regular broadcasting service from the Marconi 2LO studio in London

The Conservatives under Andrew Bonar Law win 347 seats in the British general election, giving them a large majority

The Labour party, winning 142 seats and beating the Liberals into third place, becomes for the first time the official UK opposition

Erskine Childers is sent before a firing squad in the Irish Free State for possession of a revolver

Valéry's collection *Charmes* includes probably his best-known poem, 'Le Cimetière marin'

Lenin has a second stroke, putting him finally out of action in political terms

With the ratification of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, the 26 counties of southern Ireland formally become the Irish Free State

William Thomas Cosgrave becomes the first prime minister of the Irish Free State

At a congress in Moscow four soviet republics (Russia, Belarus, the Ukraine and the Transcaucasian Republic) agree to unite

Canadian physiologists Frederick Banting and Charles Best isolate insulin from the pancreas for the treatment of diabetes

1923

The Czech novelist Jaroslav Hasek dies with his masterpiece, *The Good Soldier Schweik*, incomplete

Benito Mussolini sets up a Fascist Grand Council as a token assembly to conceal his authoritarian rule

De Valera and the IRA lay down their arms, bringing to an end the Irish civil war

France, with Belgian support, occupies Germany's industrial heartland in the Ruhr

With Mussolini already installed as Il Duce, his party wins 65% of the votes in a general election

Argentinian author Jorge Luis Borges publishes his first collection of poems, *Fervor de Buenos Aires* ('Fervour of Buenos Aires')

Lenin's third stroke prevents the publication of his Testament, which urges upon the party the removal of Stalin

Military leader Miguel Primo de Rivera takes power in Spain in a military coup

Henry Luce has an immediate success with a new magazine, calling it simply *Time*

Bessie Smith has a big hit with her first record, *Downhearted Blues*, selling two million copies within a year

The African National Congress (ANC) is formed in South Africa by renaming the South African National Native Congress

Marcel Duchamp completes his large glass construction *The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even*

De Valera and his followers do well in elections to the Dáil but decline to take their seats

Wallace Stevens' first collection, *Harmonium*, sells 100 copies

Stanley Baldwin becomes UK premier and leader of the Conservative party after ill health compels Bonar Law to resign

Rhodesia becomes a self-governing colony with political power exclusively in the hands of European settlers

Albert Roussel's opera-ballet *Padmâvâti* is premiered in Paris

Robert Frost publishes a new collection of poems, *New Hampshire*

The Italian novelist Italo Svevo has his first great success when *The Confessions of Zeno* is published in France

The US poet e.e. cummings publishes his first collection, *Tulips and Chimneys*

German inflation reaches fantasy levels, at 242 million marks to the dollar

Arnold Schoenberg's *Suite* for piano is his first piece entirely in the 12-note serial method

US poet Edna St Vincent Millay publishes *The Harp-Weaver and Other Poems*

Sean O'Casey's first play *The Shadow of a Gunman* is performed at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin

Maxim Gorky publishes *My Universities*, completing his autobiographical trilogy

Germany's communists organise uprisings in Saxony, Thuringia and Hamburg

The USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) officially comes into being, with a newly written constitution

The Treaty of Lausanne, with more favourable terms than those negotiated at Sèvres, finally brings peace between Turkey and the Allies

In *I and Thou* the Austrian theologian Martin Buber interprets religion in terms of the subjective experience of interpersonal relationships

Warren Harding dies little more than half way through his term of office as US president

Warren Harding is succeeded as US president by his vice-president, Calvin Coolidge

The gentleman detective Lord Peter Wimsey makes his first appearance in Dorothy Sayers' *Whose Body?*

US dramatist Elmer Rice establishes his reputation with *The Adding Machine*, an expressionistic drama about the machine age

Le Corbusier publishes an influential collection of his articles under the title *Towards a New Architecture*

Vegemite is launched in Melbourne as Australia's answer to Marmite

Bernard Shaw's play *Saint Joan* has its world premiere in New York

Margaret Bondfield is the first woman to be chairman of Britain's Trades Union Congress

Zoltan Kodály's work for tenor, chorus and orchestra, *Psalmus Hungaricus*, has its first performance in Budapest

Sigmund Freud proposes a new interpretation of the mind in his book *The Ego and the Id*

Turkey becomes a republic with Atatürk as president and Ankara as its new capital

Adolf Hitler, launching a putsch in a Munich beer cellar, announces the birth of a new national government

Adolf Hitler's beer-cellar putsch ends in ignominious failure, as he turns and flees under fire

Hermann Goering is wounded in the aftermath of the Munich beer hall putsch, but unlike Hitler manages to escape

Arthur Honegger's *Pacific 231*, inspired by the sounds of a steam train, has its first performance in Paris

Rainer Maria Rilke publishes his *Duino Elegies* and his *Sonnets to Orpheus*

Adolf Hitler dictates *Mein Kampf* to Rudolf Hess in their shared prison cell after the failed Munich putsch

Rudolf Hess suggests to Hitler the policy of *Lebensraum* or 'living space' for the German people

Paul Hindemith sets Rainer Maria Rilke's song-cycle *Das Marienleben*

1924

Winston Churchill, accepting the position of chancellor of the exchequer in Baldwin's cabinet, returns to the Conservative party

Lenin's death is followed by an intense power struggle in the Kremlin between Stalin, Trotsky, Kamenev and Zinoviev

A general election brings in Britain's first Labour prime minister, Ramsay MacDonald, at the head of a minority government

George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* has its first performance, at the Aeolian Hall in New York

Clarence Birdseye, having eaten frozen fish in the Arctic, launches Birdseye Seafoods in New York

Britain's most prestigious steeplechase, the Cheltenham Gold Cup, is run for the first time

James Hertzog's National Party, committed to protecting white privilege, comes to power in South Africa

Sean O'Casey's second play *Juno and the Paycock* is performed at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin

The Italian Socialist leader Giacomo Matteotti is murdered by Mussolini's Fascists

Swimmer Johnny Weissmuller wins three Olympic gold medals in the Paris games, together with a bronze in water polo

Max Brod disregards Franz Kafka's dying instruction to destroy all his manuscripts

US astronomer Edwin Hubble proves that the nebula Andromeda is vastly further away than other stars and can only be a separate galaxy

The British rugby team touring South Africa are for the first time called the Lions

The Marx Brothers (at this stage Groucho, Harpo, Chico and Gummo) make their Broadway debut with the show *I'll Say She Is*

US poet Robinson Jeffers publishes his first successful collection, *Tamar and Other Poems*

Gracie Fields makes her name when she appears in London as Sally Perkins in the musical *Mr Tower of London*

The League of Nations grants Belgium a mandate to administer the former Germany colony of Ruanda-Urundi

Le Train Bleu brings together Bronislava Nijinska (choreography), Darius Milhaud (music), and Coco Chanel (costumes)

German author Thomas Mann publishes his novel *The Magic Mountain*

German scientist Felix Wankel builds a model of a rotary engine, thirty years before the first prototype is manufactured

André Breton launches a new movement with his *Manifesto of surrealism - Soluble fish*

A new German currency, the Reichsmark, is launched with the value of a trillion old marks

Ottorino Respighi's symphonic poem *Pines of Rome* has its first performance in Rome

The British government takes on the administration of Northern Rhodesia from the British South Africa Company

Erich von Stroheim completes *Greed*, his epic silent film of ferociously competitive acquisition in turn-of-the-century San Francisco

Four Scottish Colourists (Cadell, Fergusson, Hunter, Peploe) exhibit together in Paris

20-year-old Chilean poet Pablo Neruda publishes one of his best-known collections, *Twenty Love Poems*

7-year-old Yehudi Menuhin gives his first professional recital, playing the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in San Francisco

A massive Conservative victory in the UK general election follows publication of the forged Zinoviev letter, and Baldwin returns as prime minister

Leos Janacek's opera *The Cunning Little Vixen*, based on verses by Rudolf Tesnohlídek, is premiered in Brno

US poet E.A. Robinson publishes a narrative poem, *The Man Who Died Twice*, about the dissipation of artistic talent

Calvin Coolidge is elected US president in his own right, winning by a wide margin over Democrat John W. Davis

Giacomo Puccini dies without finishing his opera *Turandot*, which is subsequently completed by Franco Alfani

E.M. Forster's novel *A Passage to India* builds on cultural misconceptions between the British and Indian communities

Christopher Robin features for the first time in A.A. Milne's *When We Were Very Young*

1925

Charlie Chaplin makes *The Gold Rush*, involving his little tramp in the horrors of wintry Alaska

Benito Mussolini arrests opposition politicians, takes control of the press and assumes dictatorial powers in Italy

The Central Committee of the USSR removes Trotsky from his influential post as War Commissar

Trumpeter Louis Armstrong, in Chicago, forms the Hot Five with his wife on piano and three New Orleans musicians on trombone, clarinet and guitar

Harold Ross founds *The New Yorker* as a humorous weekly, and remains in charge of it until his death in 1951

The first volume of Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf* is published

Scott Fitzgerald publishes his novel *The Great Gatsby*, set in a contemporary world of lavish indulgence underpinned by crime

DuBose Heyward publishes his first novel, *Porgy*, set in Charleston's Catfish Row

23-year-old German physicist Werner Heisenberg publishes his ground-breaking theory of quantum mechanics

Field marshal Paul von Hindenburg is elected president of the Weimar Republic in Germany

The Soviet director Sergei Eisenstein completes his film about the 1905 revolution, *The Battleship Potemkin*

26-year-old Al Capone takes over the Johnny Torrio gangster organization in Chicago

Britain and other nations return to a revived version of the gold standard, under the new name of Gold Exchange Standard

House by the Railroad, by US painter Edward Hopper, introduces a new style of urban realism

Maurice Ravel and Colette provide music and libretto for the opera *The Child and the Enchantments*

Plaid Cymru, the 'party of Wales', is founded in a temperance hotel in Pwllheli during the National Eisteddfod

The Broadway revue *Garrick Gaieties* is the first big success for Rodgers and Hart

A fashionable new style, Art Deco, derives its name from a Paris exhibition called the *Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs Industriels et Modernes*

Austrian physicist Wolfgang Pauli formulates his exclusion principle, stating that no two electrons in an atom can have the same four quantum numbers

A Protocol signed in Geneva prohibits the use in warfare of poisonous gas and bacteriological weapons

Franz Kafka's novel *The Trial* is published posthumously

English writer Ivy Compton-Burnett finds her characteristic voice in her second novel, *Pastors and Masters*

Anton Webern again follows Schoenberg, this time into serialism, when he adopts the 12-note method for his *Three Traditional Rhymes*

Irish novelist Liam O'Flaherty publishes *The Informer*

Biology teacher John Scopes is prosecuted for breaking state law by teaching evolution to his class of children in Dayton, Tennessee

The German navy adapts a civilian encryption machine, Enigma, for military purposes

The RSS party, from which the present Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) derives, is established in India by Keshava Baliram Hedgewar

A.J. Cook, leader of Britain's miners, insists 'Not a penny off the pay, not a minute on the day'

Virginia Woolf publishes her novel *Mrs Dalloway*, in which the action is limited to a single day

Italian poet Eugenio Montale publishes his first collection, *Bones of the Cuttlefish*

Film actress Greta Garbo and her director Maurits Stiller move from Sweden to Hollywood

A round table at the Algonquin Hotel in New York becomes famous for its collection of wits

British jockey Gordon Richards becomes champion jockey for the first of 26 times

Reza Khan, by now prime minister of Iran, mounts a second coup to depose the last Qajar shah and begin his own Pahlavi dynasty

Treaties signed at Locarno, in Switzerland, aim to stabilize and guarantee Germany's borders with France and Belgium

African-American singer and dancer Josephine Baker is *jazz hot* in La Revue Nègre in Paris

Alban Berg's opera *Wozzeck* has its premiere in Berlin

1926

English potter Michael Cardew sets up a studio at Winchcombe, in Gloucestershire

John Logie Baird gives the world's first demonstration of television to a group assembled in his attic rooms in London

Russian Jewish writer Isaac Babel publishes a collection of stories, *Red Cavalry*, based on his own experiences in the army

Soldiers Pay is the first published novel of the Mississippi author William Faulkner

The Austrian architect Adolf Loos builds a house in Paris for the Romanian dadaist poet Tristan Tzara

Miners go on strike in Britain in protest against employers' attempts to reduce wages

French author André Gide publishes his only novel, *The Counterfeiters*

Patrick Abercrombie publishes *The Preservation of Rural England*, calling for rural planning to prevent the encroachment of towns

T.E. Lawrence publishes privately his autobiographical *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, describing his part in the Arab uprising

A general strike begins in Britain in support of the striking miners

To explain the irregular movement of stars, Swedish astronomer Bertil Lindblad proposes the theory that our galaxy rotates

The prime minister Stanley Baldwin uses BBC radio to broadcast a conciliatory message to the workers in Britain's general strike

The Trades Union Congress calls off Britain's general strike after nine days

19-year-old Dmitry Shostakovich wins immediate attention with the public performance of his first symphony, his graduation piece from Leningrad Conservatory

Pooh, Piglet, Eeyore and the others make their first appearance in A.A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh*

British astrophysicist Arthur Eddington compares mass and luminosity in *The Internal Constitution of the Stars*

Irish dancer Ninette de Valois, recently with the Ballets Russes, opens a ballet school in London

Spanish architect Antoni Gaudí dies after being hit by a tram, with his masterpiece the Sagrada Familia unfinished

Hugh MacDiarmid writes his long poem *A Drunk Man Looks at the Thistle* in a revived version of the Lallans dialect of the Scottish borders

Karel Szymanowski's opera *King Roger* has its first performance in Warsaw

Leos Janacek completes his powerfully scored orchestral work *Sinfonietta*

Eamon de Valera's faction, Fianna Fáil (Warriors of Ireland), enters mainstream Irish life as a political party

The Hitler Youth (*Hitlerjugend*) is established by the Nazi party for teenage boys

Germany joins the League of Nations, with a permanent seat on the council

25-year-old Hirohito succeeds to the imperial throne of Japan after five years as prince regent

A coup in Portugal brings in a military dictatorship, in which general António óscar de Fragoso Carmona soon emerges as the leader

Franz Kafka's novel *The Castle* is published posthumously

Don Juan, starring John Barrymore, has a synchronized musical score, making it the earliest example of a film with a sound track

Dorothy Parker has a best-seller with her first collection of verse, *Enough Rope*

Russian World War I pilot Sergey Ilyushin begins a distinguished career as an aircraft designer

The England cricketer Jack Hobbs makes the highest score of his career, 316 not out for Surrey against Middlesex

Jelly Roll Morton and his new group of seven, the Red Hot Peppers, record their first classic, *Black Bottom Stomp*

Ely Culbertson devotes his playing skill and his promotional abilities to the new contract version of bridge

Zoltán Kodály's opera *Háry János* has its first performance in Budapest

Rudolf von Laban publishes a new system of dance notation, which becomes known in English as Labanotation

Mies van der Rohe designs a monument in Berlin for the Spartacus leaders Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg

English choreographer Frederick Ashton creates his first ballet, *A Tragedy of Fashion*

Béla Bartók's ballet *The Miraculous Mandarin* has its premiere (in Cologne) some eight years after he began work on it

The Balfour Report, by former UK prime minister A.J. Balfour, suggests the way forward for the British Commonwealth of Nations

23-year-old US crooner Bing Crosby makes his first record, singing *I've Got the Girl* with the Paul Whiteman band

Jean Sibelius's tone-poem *Tapiola* has its premiere in New York

Walter Gropius designs buildings in Dessau as a new home for the Bauhaus

Leos Janacek's opera *The Makropoulos Affair*, based on the play by Karel Capek, has its first performance in Brno

US author Ernest Hemingway succeeds with his second novel, *The Sun also Rises* (also known as *Fiesta*)

1927

Stanley Spencer completes his large visionary canvas *The Resurrection: Cookham*

28-year old Staffordshire potter Clarice Cliff launches a range of highly coloured geometric designs that she calls Bizarre Ware

Ernst Krenek's jazz opera *Jonny Strikes Up* has its premiere in Leipzig

US dancer and choreographer Martha Graham opens a School of Contemporary Dance in New York

Clara Bow stars in *It*, the silent film that gives her famous nickname – the 'It' Girl

English typographer Eric Gill designs a type face without serifs, commissioned by Monotype and to be known as Gill Sans-Serif

Communists seize power in Jiangxi province and establish the first soviet republic in China

Austrian director Fritz Lang creates a wildly ambitious silent film, *Metropolis*, the commercial failure of which bankrupts its studio

The Belgian surrealist painter René Magritte has his first one-man show, at the Galerie Centaure in Brussels

French author François Mauriac publishes a novel of marital claustrophobia, *Thérèse Desqueyroux*

Mae West is sentenced to eight days in gaol when *Sex*, written, produced and starred in by herself on Broadway, is judged to be obscene

Right-wing Chinese army officer Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek) launches an anti-Communist coup in the Canton region

British archaeologist Leonard Woolley discovers the treasures of the royal cemetery at Ur

Werner Heisenberg publishes his Uncertainty Principle, declaring that it is impossible to define precisely the position and momentum of a sub-atomic particle

The Australian parliament moves from Melbourne to a temporary Parliament House in the new federal capital at Canberra

Stalin expels from the Communist party his main opponents, Kamenev, Zinoviev and Trotsky

Mussolini's treaty with Ahmed Zogu gives Fascist Italy a dominant position in Albania

Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill write *Mahagonny Songspiel* for the Baden-Baden music festival

US author Thornton Wilder achieves world-wide success with his second novel, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*

US aviator Charles Lindbergh, in his single-engine plane *Spirit of St Louis*, flies solo across the Atlantic from New York to Paris

Achmed Sukarno becomes the first chairman of the new Indonesian Nationalist Party

US golfer Walter Hagen wins his fifth PGA Championship, and the fourth in succession

The fossilized tooth of a human, half a million years old and known now as Peking Man, is discovered at a site near Beijing

Henry Williamson wins a wide readership with *Tarka the Otter*, a realistic story of the life and death of an otter in Devon

Irish Free State president Kevin O'Higgins is murdered by members of the IRA on his way to mass

DuBose Heyward's novel *Porgy*, dramatized with a new title by himself and his wife Dorothy, has a great success on Broadway and in London

Hermann Hesse publishes a mystical novel, *Steppenwolf*, based on the concept of a double

personality

In *Being and Time* German philosopher Martin Heidegger makes an existentialist case with *Dasein* ('Being There') as the central theme

Anglo-Irish author Elizabeth Bowen publishes her first novel, *The Hotel*

Gutzon Borglum begins the massive task of carving portraits of four US presidents in the rock face at Mount Rushmore

De Valera and his party, the Fianna Fáil, finally take their seats in the Dáil

In spite of widespread protest and grave judicial doubt Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti are sent to the electric chair

Although not the first film with synchronized sound, *The Jazz Singer* with Al Jolson in the title role does much to popularize the 'talkies'

Virginia Woolf uses a Hebridean holiday as the setting for her narrative in *To The Lighthouse*

Archaeologists, excavating the bison remains at Folsom, find an ancient spear point embedded in the skeleton - first proof of the Folsom culture

Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy star together for the first time in the silent film *Duck Soup*

Isadora Duncan dies in Nice when her scarf tangles in the wheel of a Bugatti sports car, breaking her neck

William Randolph Hearst by now owns a nation-wide string of some 28 daily newspapers

Irish author Frank Harris publishes the fourth and final volume of *My Life and Loves*

The Scottish National War Memorial, designed by Robert Lorimer, is unveiled in Edinburgh Castle

Don Marquis publishes *archy and mehitabel*, the first collection of his sketches about archy the cockroach and mehitabel the alley cat

President Coolidge issues a famously terse statement: 'I do not choose to run for President in 1928'

11-year-old Yehudi Menuhin gives a sensational performance of the Beethoven Violin Concerto in the Carnegie Hall, conducted by Fritz Busch

Austrian zoologist Karl von Frisch demonstrates that bees communicate the whereabouts of food by means of a dance

Leos Janacek's *Glagolitic Mass* has its first performance in his home town, Brno

Stuttgart's Weissenhofsiedlung, designed by Mies van der Rohe, le Corbusier, Gropius and others, sets a defining standard for International Modernism

Mysterious German author B. Traven writes a novel, *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, about three Americans searching for a lost gold mine in Mexico

Stanley Spencer begins his murals in the Memorial Chapel for Henry Sandham at Burghclere, in Hampshire

Oscar Hammerstein II and Jerome Kern open on Broadway with an immensely influential American musical, *Show Boat*

1928

In only his third Test match, 20-year-old Australian cricketer Donald Bradman scores a century

Luis Buñuel and Salvador Dali make *Un Chien andalou*, a surrealist film specifically designed to shock

Le Corbusier and other modernist architects set up the Congrès Internationaux d'Architecture Moderne (CIAM)

Pine Top' Smith records *Pinetop's Boogie-Woogie*, the first recording to be labelled boogie-woogie

Ninette De Valois creates her first ballet, *Les Petits Riens*, at the Old Vic

English psychologist Henry Havelock Ellis completes a thirty-year project, his 7-volume *Studies in the Psychology of Sex*

English sculptor Henry Moore receives his first public commission, for the headquarters of London Underground

An Aerial Medical Service is launched in Queensland, Australia, subsequently becoming the Flying Doctor Service

Alvaro Obregón, the leading figure in Mexico's anti-clerical revolution, is shot by a Roman Catholic assassin

Beijing falls to Kuomintang forces, extending the rule of Jiang Jieshi's National Government into the north of China

Gershwin's orchestral work *An American in Paris* (with parts for four taxi-horns) has its first performance in New York

Mickey Mouse makes his first appearance in Walt Disney's short animated film *Steamboat Willie*

George Balanchine creates *Apollo* for Ballets Russes, to music by Igor Stravinsky

Scottish bacteriologist Alexander Fleming accidentally discovers a mould that selectively kills bacteria, and calls it penicillin

W.B. Yeats's new volume of poems, *The Tower*, includes 'Sailing to Byzantium'

Marcel Breuer, working at the Bauhaus, designs the classic version of his tubular-steel cantilever chair

Maxim Gorky returns to the USSR to a rapturous reception after seven years abroad

Caribbean-born author Jean Rhys publishes her first novel, *Postures*, based on her affair with the writer Ford Madox Ford

The age limit for British women to vote is lowered to 21, finally giving them parity with men

Siegfried Sassoon publishes *Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man*, the first volume of a semi-autobiographical trilogy

A second anti-Communist coup enables Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek) to set up a National Government in Nanjing

Stephen V. Benét publishes a verse narrative of the Civil War under the title *John Brown's Body*

English sculptor Barbara Hepworth has her first solo exhibition, at the Beaux Arts gallery in London

Jomo Kenyatta becomes the editor of *Muigwithania*, the newspaper of the Kikuyu Central Association

Maurice Ravel writes *Boléro* as music for a ballet choreographed by Nijinska with designs by Benois

The Front Page, by Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur, has its premiere on Broadway

Russian author Mikhail Sholokhov publishes the first section of *And Quiet Flows the Don*

Australian police massacre Aborigines near Coniston in reprisal for a murder

Stalin achieves complete personal control in the USSR after removing all his rivals from the Politburo

US anthropologist Margaret Mead makes much of trouble-free sex among natives, in *Coming of Age in Samoa*, but her findings are subsequently disputed

The Kellogg-Briand Pact is drawn up by the US and France as a pledge to renounce war

Ballerina Galina Ulanova graduates from the Leningrad Choreography School and joins the Maryinsky company

The Threepenny Opera, by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill, opens to great acclaim in Berlin

García Lorca wins fame with his book of poems *Gypsy Ballads*

Set in a World War I trench, the play *Journey's End* reflects the wartime experiences of its British author, R.C. Sherriff

Eric Fenby devotes himself to Frederick Delius, taking dictation to write down the scores of the blind composer's new works

Hassan al-Banna, a schoolteacher in Ismailia, founds the Muslim Brotherhood – to

campaign for a society based on the Qu'ran with the sharia as its legal system

Karol Szymanowski's *Stabat Mater* is performed in Warsaw and brings him international fame

All non-Fascist political activity is banned in Italy, parliament being replaced with the Fascist Grand Council

Republican candidate Herbert Hoover wins the US presidential election with the slogan 'a chicken in every pot'

Norwegian figure-skater Sonja Henie wins the first of three individual Olympic gold medals in successive games

D.H. Lawrence's new novel, in which Lady Chatterley is in love with her husband's gamekeeper, is privately printed in Florence

Evelyn Waugh succeeds with a comic first novel, *Decline and Fall*

Radclyffe Hall's novel *The Well of Loneliness* is the first to deal openly with a lesbian subject

English sculptor Henry Moore has his first solo exhibition, at the Warren Gallery in London

British inventor John Logie Baird secures a patent for fiberoptic imaging

1929

The SS, which has evolved from Hitler's personal bodyguard, is put under the command of Heinrich Himmler

Sartoris is the first of 14 novels by William Faulkner set in his fictional Yoknapatawpha County

The Tintin comic strip, by Hergé, begins with *Tintin in the Land of the Soviets*

Stalin concludes his long-standing rivalry with Trotsky, expelling him from the USSR three years after removing him from the Politburo

The Lateran Treaty, between the Holy See and the state of Italy, establishes the Vatican City as a free state within the wider nation

French author Jean Cocteau publishes *Les Enfants Terribles*, a novel about a brother and sister in a suffocatingly claustrophobic relationship

On St Valentine's Day six members of the Bugs Moran gang in Chicago are lined up against a wall and machine-gunned by rival gangsters

Richard Hughes publishes his first novel, *A High Wind in Jamaica*

Alexander, king of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, gives his kingdom the less cumbersome name of Yugoslavia

Vladimir Mayakovsky's play *The Bedbug* is directed in Moscow by Meyerhold with incidental music by Shostakovich

Labour is the largest party in the UK parliament but still has no overall majority, so Ramsay MacDonald forms his second minority government

Russia adopts a Five Year Plan aiming to boost industrial output by 200% within that period

Hollywood stars Joan Crawford and Douglas Fairbanks Jr marry

Ernest Hemingway publishes *A Farewell to Arms*, closely reflecting his own wartime experiences

Alfred Hitchcock directs *Blackmail*, the first British talkie, with a climax on the roof of the British Museum

US astronomer Edwin Hubble uses the red shift of light from galaxies to demonstrate that they are receding from each other and the universe is expanding

Margaret Bondfield becomes the first woman to sit in the British cabinet, as minister of labour

Italian writer Alberto Moravia wins success with his first novel, *The Time of Indifference*

20-year-old French composer Olivier Messiaen publishes eight Preludes for piano

Jazz musician Fats Waller begins recording with his Buddies, one of the first racially integrated groups in the US music industry

Erich Maria Remarque publishes *All Quiet on the Western Front*, a novel based on his wartime experiences in the German army

Arabs in the Palestinian town of Hebron turn on their Jewish neighbours and murder sixty-seven

George Formby makes the first records featuring what becomes his trademark, the ukulele

Blind Fireworks is Ulster writer Louis MacNeice's first collection of poems

Baseball star Ty Cobb retires with a career record of 2245 runs, that will remain unbeaten into the twenty-first century

Plutarco Calles establishes the National Revolutionary Party that will hold power in Mexico, under different names, for the rest of the century

Mies van der Rohe designs his famous Barcelona Chair for the German pavilion at the Barcelona World Fair

The Marx Brothers (now Groucho, Harpo, Chico and Zeppo) make their Hollywood debut with *The Cocoanuts*

An American Indian teenager, Ridgely Whiteman, finds the remains of a butchered mammoth near Clovis in New Mexico - first evidence of the Clovis culture

Panic selling on Thursday October 24 triggers a Wall Street stock market crash and a spate of suicides

The British Broadcasting Corporation uses Logie Baird's system for its first trial TV broadcasts

US author Thomas Wolfe publishes an autobiographical first novel, *Look Homeward, Angel*

US explorer Richard E. Byrd and two companions make the first flight over the South Pole, in a Ford Tri-Motor

English author J.B. Priestley has an immediate success with his first novel, *The Good Companions*

English poet Robert Graves puts behind him an England he dislikes in his autobiography, *Goodbye to All That*

1930

René Clair blends satire and surrealism in his film *Sous les Toits de Paris*, a dark comedy about a Parisian street singer

The Irish National War Memorial opens in Dublin, designed by Edwin Lutyens in a garden setting

Joseph von Sternberg directs Marlene Dietrich in the film *The Blue Angel*, shot in both German and English, making her an immediate international star

US author Marc Connelly's play *Green Pastures* has its premiere on Broadway

Mahatma Gandhi leads a 240-mile march from Ahmedabad to the sea to defy the British salt tax, thus launching a campaign of civil disobedience

In *The Fur Trade in Canada* Harold Innis traces the economic development linking the trade and the nation

The Hays Code sets exacting standards of public decency in US movies

The opera *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*, by Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht, opens in Leipzig

British inventor Frank Whittle takes out a patent for a jet engine

The regent Ras Tafari becomes emperor of Ethiopia and takes the name Haile Selassie

Vita Sackville-West and her husband Harold Nicolson begin to create a garden at Sissinghurst in Kent

A military coup removes Hipolito Irigoyen from the presidency in Argentina

18-year-old Jean Harlow is a sensation in *Hell's Angels*, directed by Howard Hughes

English author W.H. Auden's first collection of poetry is published with the simple title *Poems*

Adolf Hitler puts Joseph Goebbels at the head of the Nazi party's propaganda campaign

English pioneer aviator Amy Johnson makes a 19-day solo flight in a Gipsy Moth from Croydon (part of London) to Darwin, Australia

Swallows and Amazons is the first of Arthur Ransome's adventure stories for children

The Chrysler Building opens in New York as the world's tallest skyscraper, but holds the record for only one year

Getúlio Vargas begins a 24-year personal rule in Brazil

US crime-writer Dashiell Hammett publishes *The Maltese Falcon*, the novel in which he introduces his sardonic private eye, Sam Spade

Wolfgang Pauli announces his mathematical proof of the existence of the particle subsequently known as the neutrino

The Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act introduces a US protectionist policy

The Allies withdraw their occupying forces from Germany's Rhineland, five years ahead of schedule

Henri Matisse completes his *Backsequence* – four progressively simplified bronze relief sculptures (*Nus de Dos*)

US golfer Bobby Jones retires after winning his thirteenth major in eight years

Rafael Trujillo establishes a dictatorship in the Dominican Republic that will last for 30 years

The verdict on Fred Astaire's first screen test, so the legend goes, is that he can't act, can't sing, is balding but can dance a little

Heitor Villa-Lobos composes the first of his *Bachianas Brasileiras*

Conservative leader R.B. Bennett defeats the Liberals and becomes prime minister of Canada

French actor Jean Gabin makes his screen debut in *Chacun sa Chance*

Noel Coward and Gertrude Lawrence star in the West End in *Private Lives*, Coward's comedy of marital complications

British theoretical physicist Paul Dirac predicts the existence of an anti-particle of the electron, first observed two years later and named the positron

Lewis Milestone makes a powerful film of Erich Maria Remarque's anti-war novel *All Quiet on the Western Front*, published in the previous year

Edward G. Robinson gives a chilling portrayal of a gangster loosely based on Al Capone in the film *Little Caesar*

The Nazis become the second largest party in the Reichstag, winning 107 seats

The steel-band tradition begins to develop in Trinidad, with adapted metal objects taking the place of traditional skin drums

A pregnant female hamster, captured in Syria, becomes the ancestor of every pet hamster in the world

Agatha Christie's Miss Marple makes her first appearance, in *Murder at the Vicarage*

The airship *R101*, designed by a UK Air Ministry team, explodes on its maiden voyage, killing all but four of those on board

Garbo talks' and breaks box office records in her first sound film, *Anna Christie*, directed by Clarence Brown

In his novel *As I Lay Dying* William Faulkner follows the journey of a coffin in a mule-drawn wagon

The Camargo Society, founded to promote British dancers and choreographers, presents its first evening of ballet in London

The New Zealand racehorse Phar Lap wins huge popularity after an easy victory in the Melbourne Cup

The Rastafarian cult evolves in Jamaica, viewing Ras Tafari, the emperor of Ethiopia, as the black Messiah

English composer John Ireland's Piano Concerto has its first performance

US inventor Richard Drew develops Scotch Brand Cellulose Tape, the world's first transparent tape

Wallace D. Fard founds the Nation of Islam as a black separatist movement in the USA

Australian-born composer Percy Grainger writes variations on Handel's tune *The Harmonious Blacksmith*

US author John Dos Passos publishes the first novel of his trilogy *The 42nd Parallel*

US choreographer Busby Berkeley moves to Hollywood to provide the first of his famous dance spectacles, in *Whoopie*

A spoof history text book, *1066 and all that*, is justifiably described by its authors, Walter

Sellar and Robert Yeatman, as a Memorable History of England

The British Broadcasting Corporation forms a Symphony Orchestra with Adrian Boult as the first music director

1931

The Statute of Westminster defines and formalizes the concept of the British Commonwealth

US gangster Al Capone, never convicted of murder, begins an 8-year-spell in jail for tax evasion

US actress Bette Davis moves to Hollywood and appears in her first film, *The Bad Sister*

25 million peasants are moved from the land to provide cheap labour in Stalin's new factories

Six million Russian peasants die after being transported to agricultural labour camps in Siberia

US critic Edmund Wilson publishes *Axel's Castle*, a collection of essays about writers in the symbolist tradition

US film star James Cagney has a great success in the first of his many gangster roles, in *The Public Enemy*

On his first expedition to the Olduvai Gorge, Louis Leakey finds the oldest object now in the British Museum - the chopping tool from about 1.8 million years ago

Nine black teenagers, known as the Scottsboro Boys, are wrongly convicted of gang rape in a notorious US race-relations case

Frederick Ashton choreographs *Façade* for the Camargo Society, using Walton's score

Sectarian hostilities increase in Kashmir, with the Muslim majority resenting the favours shown by the British to the Sikh and Hindu elite

President Hoover switches on the lights to inaugurate the world's new tallest skyscraper, the Empire State Building in New York

The gold standard is abandoned throughout the world after massive capital outflows cause the United Kingdom to pull out of the system

The US poet Ogden Nash has an immediate success with his first volume of poems, *Hard Lines*

The Star-Spangled Banner is made the official US national anthem

Geoffrey De Havilland designs the Tiger Moth, on which nearly all British pilots were trained during World War II

A dance company, brought together by Ninette de Valois as the Vic-Wells Ballet, begins performing at Sadler's Wells

Irgun, a new Jewish paramilitary group, is set up by Haganah commanders frustrated by the older organization's policies

Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels makes Der Führer a compulsory term for Hitler in the Nazi party

The Irish government classifies the Irish Republican Army as an illegal organization

Amid political crisis Labour-leader Ramsay MacDonald forms an all-party National Government in Britain

Charlie Chaplin makes *City Lights*, in which the tramp befriends and helps a blind flower girl

Virginia Woolf publishes the most fluid of her novels, *The Waves*, in which she tells the story through six interior monologues

The Japanese occupy the Chinese state of Manchuria

16-year-old English footballer Stanley Matthews plays his first League game for Stoke City

In *Pietr-Le-Letton*, the first novel published under his own name, the Belgian writer Georges Simenon introduces Inspector Maigret

The trilogy *Mourning becomes Electra*, Eugene O'Neill's transposition to New England of the *Oresteia* story, is performed in New York

Pay cuts cause British sailors in the Atlantic fleet to mutiny at Invergordon, in Scotland's Cromarty Firth

The George Washington Bridge links New York with New Jersey, and is the world's longest suspension bridge with a main span of 3500 feet (1066m)

Harold Clurman and Lee Strasberg's Group Theatre present their first professional production, *The House of Connelly* by Paul Green

Italian fashion designer Elsa Schiaparelli introduces a successful new line for women in the form of the padded shoulder

In his painting *The Persistence of Memory* Salvador Dali provides the disturbing image of watches drooping from the edge of flat surfaces

Boris Karloff gives a touching portrayal of the monster created by Dr Frankenstein, in the first of several screen performances in the role

of Tecton

The French photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson has his first exhibition, in the Julien Levy Gallery in New York

US poet Archibald MacLeish publishes a narrative epic, *Conquistador*, about the conquest of Mexico

Charles and Anne Lindbergh's one-year-old son, Charles Jr, is kidnapped and subsequently found murdered

Japan renames the Chinese province of Manchuria, calling it Manchukuo – supposedly independent but in fact a puppet state

Adolf Hitler finally exchanges Austrian for German nationality, just in time to run for the German presidency

The Chaco War breaks out between Bolivia and Paraguay, in dispute over the swampy plain known as the Gran Chaco

One of the defining landmarks of Sydney, in Australia, is opened – the single-span steel arch bridge across the city's harbour

Adolf Hitler stands for election as president of the German republic and wins 36% of the vote

The newly formed Ballets Russes de Monte Carlo opens for its first season, with George Balanchine as ballet master

John Cockcroft and Ernest Walton are the first to split an atom, by bombarding it with accelerated protons

Antonio de Oliveira Salazar becomes prime minister of Portugal with dictatorial powers

British author C.S. Lewis publishes a moral parable, *The Screwtape Letters*, about the problems confronting a trainee devil

Marcel Duchamp coins the term 'mobile' for Alexander Calder's new suspended art form

French playwright Jean Anouilh has his first play, *L'Hermine*, produced and published

US aviator Amelia Earhart lands in Ireland 15 hours after leaving Newfoundland, to become the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic

British physicist James Chadwick shows that the behaviour of subatomic particles can be explained by the existence of neutrons, or particles with no electrical charge

The town of Maxim Gorky's birth, Nizhny-Novgorod, is renamed Gorky in his honour

Presidential candidate F.D. Roosevelt pledges himself at the Democratic convention to deliver 'a new deal for the American people'

Fianna Fáil wins enough seats in the Irish Free State's election for Eamon de Valera to form a government

US athlete Mildred 'Babe' Didrikson breaks four world records in one afternoon in Evanston, Illinois

After gaining control of most of the Arabian peninsula, Ibn Saud gives his kingdom a new name, Saudi Arabia

Ernest Hemingway, an *aficionado* of the sport, publishes *Death in the Afternoon*, a non-fiction account of bullfighting in Spain

Troops using bayonets and tear gas drive out of Washington the Bonus Army, a group of

protesting unemployed war veterans

Winning 230 seats in the election, the Nazis become the largest party in the Reichstag (albeit not with a majority)

British author Aldous Huxley gives a bleak view of a science-based future in his novel *Brave New World*

Unemployment in Britain reaches three million, or more than 25% of the work force

Mae West stars alongside George Raft in her first film, *Night after Night*

Ernst Lubitsch has a great success with *Trouble in Paradise*, a Hollywood comedy about villainy and romance in Paris

US novelist Erskine Caldwell publishes *Tobacco Road*, about white sharecroppers coping with poverty and desperation in Georgia

Oswald Mosley holds his first rally in Trafalgar Square, at the head of his British Union of Fascists

John Cowper Powys's novel *A Glastonbury Romance* is published first in New York

De Valera withholds farmers' annuities from Britain, provoking British tariffs and a trade war

A deeply flawed experiment with African American syphilis patients is launched in Tuskegee, Alabama

Young Lonigan: a Boyhood in Chicago Streets is the first novel in James T. Farrell's Studs Lonigan trilogy

Johnny Weissmuller and Maureen O'Sullivan star as Tarzan and Jane in *Tarzan the Ape Man*, the first of countless Tarzan talkies

16-year-old Yehudi Menuhin records the Elgar violin concerto, conducted by the composer

US author Damon Runyon publishes his first collection of stories about low-life New York, under the title *Guys and Dolls*

The Bluebell Girls, formed by Margaret Kelly ('Miss Bluebell'), give their first performances in Paris

The incumbent president, Republican Herbert Hoover, suffers a heavy defeat by Democrat F.D. Roosevelt in the US election

George V reads on radio a Christmas address (written by Rudyard Kipling), beginning an annual royal tradition

Unemployment in Germany rises during the world-wide depression to the unprecedented level of 6 million

English fast-bowler Harold Larwood causes outrage using the 'body-line' attack, devised by his captain, Douglas Jardine, in Test matches against Australia

English conductor Thomas Beecham founds another orchestra, calling it the London Philharmonic

The British artist Graham Sutherland, after an early career as a printmaker, takes up painting relatively late in life

1933

President Hindenburg appoints Adolf Hitler chancellor of the German republic

German chancellor Adolf Hitler orders the sterilization of carriers of hereditary mental diseases, in one of his government's first pieces of legislation

Prohibition is lifted in the USA when the Twenty-First Amendment repeals the Eighteenth, which has been in force for 13 years

The electoral campaign for a new Reichstag, demanded by Hitler, is conducted with escalating Nazi violence

Polish cryptographers succeed in breaking some of the Enigma code used by the German military

The burning of the Reichstag during the German election enables Adolf Hitler to introduce emergency measures restricting liberty

President Roosevelt gives the first of his many 'fireside chats' to the US nation on radio

Hungarian photographer Brassai publishes his photographs of the seedier side of Paris night life in *Paris de Nuit*

Heinrich Himmler sets up the first Nazi concentration camp, at Dachau near Munich

The Austrian chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss suspends parliament and subsequently outlaws the Nazi party

Pablo Neruda increases his international reputation with a collection of surrealist poems, *Residencia en la tierra* ('Residence on earth')

Adolf Hitler puts a bill before the first meeting of the newly elected Reichstag, giving himself unrestricted powers

Gustav Krupp and his son Alfried, Germany's main manufacturers of armaments, join the Nazi party

In *My Life and Hard Times* James Thurber's publishes an affectionate account of his

family, including the night the bed fell on his father

Lloyd Bacon directs *42nd Street*, a classic backstage movie about putting a musical comedy on Broadway

Japan announces its withdrawal from the League of Nations after a resolution is passed declaring the Japanese occupation of Manchuria illegal

Adolf Hitler passes a law forcing the 'retirement' of all Jews working in the civil service, schools and universities

The new Nazi government closes down Germany's distinguished school of modern art and architecture, the Bauhaus

Alexander Korda directs Charles Laughton in the film *The Private Life of Henry VIII*

Fulgencio Batista, as army chief of staff, begins a long career running the affairs of Cuba

H.G. Wells publishes *The Shape of Things to Come*, a novel in which he accurately predicts a renewal of world war

US actress Katherine Hepburn wins the first of four Oscars in only her second film, *Morning Glory*

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is the largest project launched in the first hundred days of Roosevelt's New Deal

Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers dance together for the first time on film, in *Flying Down to Rio*

Unknown American blues singer Huddie Ledbetter, or Leadbelly, is first recorded singing in the Louisiana State Penitentiary

Gertrude Stein publishes a best-selling account of her own life under the title *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*

The Pylon group of British poets get their name from Stephen Spender's poem 'The Pylons'

King Kong, an enduringly successful horror film, is based on a story by Edgar Wallace

Draughtsman Harry Beck, inspired by electrical circuits, produces a classic map of London's underground

Fine Gael is the name given to a new political party in Ireland, formed by the merger of several smaller groups

The Hutus and Tutsis of Ruanda-Urundi are issued with racial identity cards by the Belgians

English author Antonia White publishes an autobiographical first novel, *Frost in May*

Erskine Caldwell publishes a novel, *God's Little Acre*, about a farmer obsessed with finding gold on his farm

George Balanchine, Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht collaborate in Paris on *Seven Deadly Sins*, a ballet with songs

The Nazi government dismisses Konrad Adenauer from all his appointments, included that of Lord Mayor of Cologne

Arabella, by Richard Strauss and Hugo von Hofmannsthal, is first performed four years after von Hofmannsthal's death left it incomplete

The Marx Brothers make their last film as a foursome, *Duck Soup*, with Zeppo still in the

team

Germany becomes a one-party state, with only the Nazis allowed to engage in political activity

García Lorca writes his play *Blood Wedding* while he is director of a company touring in rural Spain

Thomas Mann leaves Germany and moves to Switzerland, where he engages in a steady polemic against the Nazis

Mae West gives Cary Grant his big break, choosing him as her co-star in *She Done Him Wrong*

Adolf Hitler, the new German chancellor, pulls Germany out of the League of Nations and its disarmament conference

Adolf Hitler wins massive referendum support for his withdrawal of Germany from the Disarmament Conference and the League of Nations

Fritz Lang's film *The Testament of Dr Mabuse* is banned in Germany because of implicit criticism of Nazi thugs

19-year-old Mexican poet Octavio Paz publishes his first collection, *Wild Moon*

J. Arthur Rank founds the Religious Film Society to make films in Britain that will bring people to Christianity

The first Dinky Toys cars go on sale in Britain, originally under the name Modelled Miniatures

25% of workers in Canada are unemployed as the Depression continues to deepen

In *Down and Out in Paris and London* English author George Orwell writes a sympathetic account of the people he meets on hard times

Arnold Schoenberg leaves his teaching post in Germany, now under Nazi control, and in 1934 settles in Los Angeles

1934

Dmitry Shostakovich's opera *Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District* has its premiere in Leningrad's Maly Theatre

Nazi architect Albert Speer designs a spectacular new setting for the party's annual Nuremberg rally

US author Scott Fitzgerald publishes his novel *Tender Is the Night*

US author Henry Miller publishes in Paris a largely sexual autobiography, *Tropic of Cancer*, about his life as an expatriate

The Indian Reorganization Act restores tribal ownership of land in the US reservations

German photographer Leni Riefenstahl glorifies Hitler and the Nuremberg rally in her film *Triumph of the Will*

The first opera festival at Glyndebourne, a country house in Sussex, opens with a performance of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*

Five girls are born as quintuplets in the Dionne family of French Catholic farmers in Corbeil, Ontario

Anastasio Somoza, commander of the National Guard, organizes a coup in Nicaragua

Benito Mussolini plays host in Venice to Adolf Hitler, the newcomer among European dictators

British tennis player Fred Perry wins the first of three consecutive Wimbledon singles titles

British painter Francis Bacon has his first solo show in London

Frédéric and Irène Joliot-Curie discover artificial radioactivity

Erich Korngold, one of Austria's most admired composers, moves to Hollywood

Elijah Muhammad takes control of the Nation of Islam, or Black Muslims, and leads the movement for more than 40 years

Adolf Hitler visits his SA commander, Ernst Roehm, in his hotel before having him shot

Multiple murders are carried out on Hitler's orders during the Night of the Long Knives

In addition to the SS, Heinrich Himmler is given command of the state secret police, or Gestapo

The Scottish National Party, or SNP, is founded to campaign for an independent Scotland

Australian author Christina Stead publishes a first novel based on her own family, *Seven Poor Men of Sydney*

Jazz guitarist Django Reinhardt and violinist Stephane Grapelli form the Quintet du Hot Club de France

The Austrian chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss is assassinated by Nazis in a coup that fails

Kurt von Schuschnigg succeeds the murdered Dollfuss as Austria's chancellor and Hitler's

opponent

In Lillian Hellman's play *The Children's Hour* two teachers are maliciously accused of lesbianism by one of their pupils

Paul von Hindenburg dies, enabling Adolf Hitler to combine the roles of president, chancellor and supreme commander of the German armed forces

In *I, Claudius* the autobiography of the Roman emperor is ghost-written by Robert Graves

Sergei Rachmaninov writes the *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* in his villa beside Lake Lucerne

6-year-old Shirley Temple wins instant fame after starring in *Stand up and Cheer*

The US military government is finally withdrawn from Haiti after nineteen years

Berthold Lubetkin and Ove Arup provide a modernist pool for the penguins in London Zoo

In *A Handful of Dust* Evelyn Waugh sends his hero Tony Last to a disastrous fate, far away in the Amazon rain forest

USSR joins the League of Nations, after Germany leaves the organization

Swedish tenor Jussi Björling makes his debut in Stockholm, in Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*

15-year-old English ballerina Margot Fonteyn makes her first appearance, dancing as a Snowflake in *Nutcracker*

Neo-Destour, a party demanding Tunisian independence, has Habib Bourguiba as its secretary general

In a referendum 38 million German voters say yes to Adolf Hitler becoming Führer, Germany's supreme leader

Hitler tells the party faithful in a Nuremberg rally that their new third Reich will last for 1000 years

To escape the Kuomintang forces, the Chinese Communist army begins the Long March from Jiangxi province to Shaanxi

Paul Hindemith's opera *Mathis der Maler* is banned by the Nazis and is not performed until 1938 in Zurich

Sergei Kirov, head of the party in Leningrad, is assassinated in his office, giving Stalin the pretext for his first massive purge

Josip Broz, a leading member of the banned Communist Party of Yugoslavia, adopts the name Tito

Mohammed Ali Jinnah becomes president of the Muslim League in India

Openly hostile to the Nazis, the architect Walter Gropius moves to England and three years later makes the USA his home

1935

Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers have one of their greatest successes dancing in their fourth film together, *Top Hat*

Adolf Hitler informs Britain and France that he is building up the German armed forces, in contravention of the Versailles treaty

The German composer Kurt Weill moves to New York, where he writes Broadway musicals

Adolf Hitler reinstates Germany's airforce, the Luftwaffe, putting Hermann Goering in

command

The people of the rich mining district of the Saar vote to merge with Germany

Adolf Hitler gets away with a calculated international risk when he reintroduces conscription in Germany

Frank Lloyd directs Charles Laughton and Clark Gable in a dramatic account of the famous mutiny on the Bounty

George Balanchine's new company, American Ballet, has its first brief season in New York

The Viipury Library in Finland makes the reputation of a young Finnish architect, Alvar Aalto

Mao Zedong wins control over the Chinese Communists during the Long March

In *Frontier* the Japanese-US sculptor Isamu Noguchi designs the first of his many sets for Martha Graham ballets

Frank Lloyd Wright designs Fallingwater in Mill Run, Pennsylvania, for Edgar Kaufmann

Pablo Picasso's *Minotauremachy*, a masterpiece of etching, prefigures some of the themes of *Guernica*

Arthur Honegger's opera *Joan of Arc at the Stake* has its premiere in Basel

US athlete Jesse Owens sets three world records and equals a fourth within the space of less than an hour in Ann Arbor, Michigan

Strikers in Vancouver begin the On-to-Ottawa Trek, to take their grievances to government

Tortilla Flat brings success for the US novelist John Steinbeck

A truce ends armed hostilities in the three-year Chaco War between Bolivia and Paraguay

In *A Night at the Opera* the Marx Brothers make the first of their films as the famous threesome, Groucho, Harpo and Chico

Alban Berg writes his Violin Concerto, commissioned by Louis Krasner, in memory of Manon Gropius

T.S. Eliot's play *Murder in the Cathedral* has its first performance in Canterbury cathedral

George Gallup founds the American Institute of Public Opinion and becomes the pioneer of modern polling techniques

Elias Canetti publishes the novel later translated into English as *Auto da Fé*

US seismologist Charles Richter devises a scale for measuring the magnitude of earthquakes

Adolf Hitler gives Karl Dönitz, a submarine commander from World War I, responsibility for Germany's U-boat programme

The Austrian zoologist Konrad Lorenz describes his experiments on young geese, with their capacity to imprint on human beings

Adolf Hitler promulgates a law prohibiting any sexual relationship between Jews and 'Aryans'

Argentinian author Jorge Luis Borges publishes *A Universal History of Infamy*, one of the first examples of magic realism

French cabaret singer Edith Gassion acquires the nickname *la môme piaf* ('the little sparrow'), and so becomes Edith Piaf

The mighty Boulder Dam (renamed Hoover Dam in 1947) is completed on the Colorado River

Marie Rambert's London-based company, deriving originally from her school, takes the name Ballet Rambert

Leningrad's opera and ballet company is renamed the Kirov, in memory of the city's recently assassinated commissar

US industrialist Howard Hughes sets a new speed record of 352 mph, flying a plane designed by himself

New Nazi laws announced at Nuremberg strip Jews of their German citizenship

Italian baritone Tito Gobbi makes his operatic debut in Gubbio in Bellini's *La Sonnambula*

Mussolini uses a disagreement over grazing rights as a pretext for an empire-building invasion of Ethiopia

A collection of Constantine Cavafy's poems is published in Alexandria in an undated edition

W.L. Mackenzie King starts another long spell, of thirteen years, as Canadian prime minister

The survivors of the Long March reach safety in Shaanxi province in northwest China

R.K. Narayan's novel *Swami and Friends* is the first set in his fictional town of Malgudi

British publisher Allen Lane launches a paperback series to which he gives the name Penguin Books

George Gershwin's 'folk opera' *Porgy and Bess*, based on the novel by DuBose Heyward, opens on Broadway

Within the National government Ramsay MacDonald cedes the role of prime minister to the Conservative leader, Stanley Baldwin

Kim Il Sung leads a Communist guerrilla campaign against the Japanese occupation of Korea

US jazz pianist William ('count') Basie acquires his own orchestra

Alban Berg's opera *Lulu* is incomplete when the composer dies

1935-1938

Adolf Hitler's rearmament programme begins to reduce German unemployment, and by 1938 eliminates it entirely

1936

George V dies and is succeeded on the British throne by his eldest son Edward VIII

The new sound of jazz clarinettist Benny Goodman's touring band brings him the title 'King of Swing'

In *Modern Times*, the last film featuring the little tramp, Charlie Chaplin sets his character in a mechanistic, impersonal world

Salvador Dali creates a stir by attending the opening of London's Surrealist exhibition in a diving suit

The rest of Europe offers no effective objection when Adolf Hitler moves his troops into the demilitarized Rhineland

Frank Lloyd Wright experiments with prefabrication for low-cost housing in a style he calls Usonian (meaning 'in the US style')

On the death of his father, Fuad I, the 16-year-old Farouk becomes king of Egypt

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is founded as a public service in competition with private radio stations

US composer Aaron Copland writes *El Salón México*, using popular Mexican tunes

German architect Werner March designs spectacular buildings for the Berlin Olympics

The Italian forces invading Ethiopia reach Addis Ababa, and Haile Selassie flees into exile

García Lorca writes his play *The House of Bernarda Alba* in the last year of his short life

US author Margaret Mitchell publishes her one book, which becomes probably the best-selling novel of all time – *Gone with the Wind*

Stalin stages the first of the Moscow show trials, designed to eliminate any surviving high-level opponents

Membership of the Hitler Youth (for boys) or the League of German Maidens is made compulsory

In response to the gang violence of Oswald Mosley's black-shirted thugs, a Public Order Act in the UK bans political uniforms

British mathematician Alan Turing writes an influential paper *On Computable Numbers, with an Application to the Entscheidungs Problem*

Paul Robeson sings 'Ol' Man River' in the film of Jerome Kern's *Showboat*

Maxim Gorky dies in suspicious circumstances while undergoing routine medical treatment in the USSR

William Faulkner's novel *Absalom, Absalom!* chronicles the violently destructive rise and fall of a poor Southern white, Thomas Sutpen

John Maynard Keynes defines his economics in *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money*

Hitler gives Reinhard Heydrich control of the Gestapo

A rebellion by Spanish troops in Morocco is soon led by Francisco Franco and sparks the Spanish Civil War

Mussolini appoints his son-in-law, Count Galeazzo Ciano, as his minister for foreign affairs

In *Language, Truth and Logic* 26-year-old A.J. Ayer produces a classic exposition of Logical Positivism

At the Berlin Olympics, attended by Hitler, the African-American athlete Jesse Owens sets three new Olympic records and equals a fourth

Terence Rattigan's first play, *French without Tears*, is performed in London

In the first month of the Spanish Civil War the playwright García Lorca is arrested and shot by rebel Falange militia

Alexander Korda's bleakly visionary film *Things to Come* is based on the H.G. Wells novel of 1933

On Stalin's orders Dmitry Shostakovich is attacked in *Pravda* for providing 'chaos instead of music'

The prototype of the Spitfire, designed by Reginald Mitchell, has its first test flight

Carl Orff's cantata *Carmina Burana* has its premiere in Frankfurt

Rachmaninov completes his Third Symphony, and records it two years later with the Philadelphia Orchestra

French-born US author Anaïs Nin publishes her first novel, *The House of Incest*

Unemployed English workers march for 26 days from Jarrow, in Tyne and Wear, to demonstrate at Westminster

Wallis Simpson wins a decree nisi against her second husband and is therefore free to marry Edward VIII

Hitler and Mussolini form an axis, or alliance, causing Germany and Italy to become known as the Axis powers

US publisher Henry Luce launches a new picture magazine, calling it simply *Life*

Francisco Franco is elected head of state of the insurgent Nationalist Spain, at this time controlling only a fraction of the country

The British Broadcasting Corporation puts out its first high-definition public television broadcast

The first volunteers in the International Brigade arrive in Spain to fight for the Republican cause in the civil war

The Febreristas, a newly formed left-wing group, seize power in Paraguay

The Spanish Civil War causes the Basque designer Cristobal Balenciaga to move his business to Paris, capital of the fashion world

Edward VIII informs Baldwin, the UK prime minister, that he intends to marry the American divorcée Wallis Simpson

Germany and Japan establish an Anti-Comintern Pact against their common enemy, the USSR

F.D. Roosevelt is elected for a second US presidential term with an increased share of the vote

Edward VIII, forced to choose between the British throne and Wallis Simpson, opts for the path of love and abdicates

Edward VIII is succeeded on the British throne by his brother, as George VI

Hungarian photographer Robert Capa achieves an unprecedented immediacy in his coverage of the Spanish Civil War

1937

Anastasio Somoza makes himself president of Nicaragua, beginning four decades of brutal rule by his family

Joe Louis, 'The Brown Bomber', defeats James J. Braddock to become world heavyweight champion

French film director Jean Renoir makes *La Grande Illusion*, set in World War I

US trombonist Glenn Miller forms his first band, the Glenn Miller Orchestra

Pope Pius XI issues an encyclical, *Mit Brennender Sorge*, condemning the Nazi ideology of racism

The Nationalist leader in Spain, Francisco Franco, merges Falange with other right-wing parties to form the Movimiento

German planes bomb the Basque capital, Guernica, in support of the Nationalists in the Spanish Civil War

British artist Ben Nicholson does the first of his characteristic abstract white reliefs

The first can of Spam goes on sale, produced by the Hormel company of Austin, Minnesota

The German airship *Hindenburg* bursts into flames over New Jersey, bringing to an end the era of rigid airships

William Walton writes *Crown Imperial* for the coronation of George VI

Congress passes a Neutrality Act, to prevent US aid being given to belligerent nations

Congress rejects President Roosevelt's proposed reform of the US Supreme Court, amid furious accusations that he is trying to pack the Court with his nominees

Neville Chamberlain follows Baldwin as prime minister at the head of the UK's National government

The Golden Gate Bridge, linking San Francisco and Marin County, is the world's longest suspension bridge with a main span of 4200 feet (1280m)

John Steinbeck publishes *Of Mice and Men*, a novel about two itinerant farm labourers in California

Under Nazi influence the University of Bonn deprives Thomas Mann of his honorary doctorate, which is restored to him in 1946

German-born British scientist Hans Krebs discovers the biochemical cycle that becomes known by his name

Lutheran pastor Martin Niemöller is arrested for defying the Nazis and spends the next eight years in concentration camps

Amelia Earhart and her navigator vanish somewhere over the Pacific four weeks into their attempt to fly round the world

Danish author Karen Blixen publishes her autobiographical novel *Out of Africa*

The Japanese use an incident at the Marco Polo Bridge, near Beijing, as the pretext for an attack on China

At the same time as the Moscow show trials, millions are purged from the Russian Communist party nation-wide

A Nazi exhibition of 'degenerate art' opens in Munich, and visitors are invited to mock the avant-garde works on show

Japanese troops occupy Beijing – at the start of eight years of continuous war between China and Japan

Buchenwald, near Weimar, is set up as a concentration camp providing forced labour for local arms manufacturers

C.S. Forester's central character, Horatio Hornblower, features for the first time – in *The Happy Return*

Alan Turing describes the properties of a logically possible computer that becomes known as the Turing Machine

Rocket engineer Wernher von Braun is appointed director of Germany's weapon research centre at Peenemünde

Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* is the first animated feature film

Pablo Picasso's massive painting *Guernica* is exhibited in the Spanish pavilion at the World Fair in Paris

Adolf Hitler, entertaining Mussolini in Germany, puts on spectacular demonstrations of German military and industrial might

British biochemist Max Perutz begins the analysis of haemoglobin

William Coldstream and Victor Pasmore open a school of art with a distinctive style, known from its location as the Euston Road School

Stanley Spencer gives a stark depiction of himself and his wife in *The Leg of Mutton Nude*

The Japanese capture the Chinese capital, Nanjing, and massacre at least 300,000 inhabitants within a few weeks

De Valera introduces a new constitution, changing the name of the Irish Free State to Eire (Gaelic for Ireland)

De Valera's new constitution for Eire lays claim to the six counties of northern Ireland

George Orwell reveals the harsh realities of contemporary British life in *The Road to Wigan Pier*

US architect Frank Lloyd Wright designs Taliesin West in Arizona as his winter home and studio

William Joyce defects from Mosley's Union of Fascists and founds his own National Socialist League in London

1938

Finnish designer Alvar Aalto develops a bent plywood three-legged stool, specifically designed for stacking

Mexico, newly rich from oil, nationalizes the holdings of the foreign oil companies

Leading British artists Barbara Hepworth and Ben Nicholson marry

The House Un-American Activities Committee is formed by US congressmen to investigate politically subversive groups

The Aboriginal artist Albert Namatjira wins success with the first exhibition of his watercolours

Gloucestershire batsman Wally Hammond becomes captain of the England Test team

Thornton Wilder's play *Our Town* opens on Broadway

The first shipload of oil is exported from Saudi Arabia to the USA after the discovery of commercially viable resources in Dhahran

British author Evelyn Waugh publishes a classic Fleet Street novel, *Scoop*, introducing Lord Copper, proprietor of *The Beast*

The Du Pont Corporation begins manufacture of a new synthetic silk yarn, subsequently known as nylon

Delmore Schwartz publishes his first book of poems, *In Dreams Begin Responsibilities*

French writer Jean-Paul Sartre succeeds with his first novel, *La Nausée* ('Nausea')

In *Homage to Catalonia* George Orwell describes his experiences fighting for the International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War

Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek) builds the Burma Road as a supply route

American naïve painter Grandma Moses has her first exhibition in a local drug store at the age of 78

Yorkshire batsman Len Hutton scores a record 364 in a Test match against Australia at the Oval

British author Graham Greene publishes *Brighton Rock*, a novel following 17-year-old Pinkie in the criminal underworld of the seaside town

Wind erosion makes this the worst year of the Dust Bowl crisis in the Midwest USA

Maxim de Winter's house, Manderley, holds dark secrets in Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*

Russian film-maker Sergei Eisenstein directs *Alexander Nevsky*, with music by Prokofiev

Irish author Samuel Beckett publishes his first novel, *Murphy*

23-year-old Rangoon student Aung San becomes general secretary of a freedom party, *Dobama Asiayone* (Our Burma Union)

Lord Nuffield donates to Commonwealth hospitals 'iron lungs', built at his Morris Oxford factory

A dramatized version of H. G. Wells's *War of the Worlds*, broadcast on US radio, terrifies listeners who think Martians are invading

US architectural critic Lewis Mumford publishes *The Culture of Cities*

Lavrenty Beria is appointed head of Stalin's state security organization, the NKVD

US tennis player Donald Budge becomes the first person to achieve the grand slam, winning all four majors in the same year

The peace of Buenos Aires, ending the Chaco War, gives Paraguay most of the region under dispute with Bolivia

The first of many ballets to Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* score is premiered in Czechoslovakia

February 4: Adolf Hitler appoints Joachim von Ribbentrop as Germany's foreign minister

February 12: Adolf Hitler uses threats of force to browbeat the Austrian chancellor, Kurt von Schuschnigg, into granting special favours to Austrian Nazis

March 9: the Austrian chancellor, Kurt von Schuschnigg, defies Hitler by announcing a referendum on his country's independence

March 11: the Austrian chancellor Kurt von Schuschnigg resigns in the face of threats from Hitler, and broadcasts that he is doing so under duress

March 12 - German tanks cross the border into Austria, on the official invitation of Austrian Nazis

March 12 - Adolf Hitler, following his troops into Austria, announces the Anschluss (union

of Germany and Austria)

April 24 - the Sudeten German National Socialist Party demands secession from Czechoslovakia, in keeping with Hitler's plans for the Sudetenland

Left-wingers and Jews suffer immediate persecution in Nazi Austria, now part of Germany

Voters in both Germany and Austria give massive approval for Hitler's annexation of Austria

September 15 - Neville Chamberlain makes the first of three flights to Germany, this time to negotiate with Adolf Hitler at Berchtesgaden

September 29 - Neville Chamberlain and Édouard Daladier fly to Munich to discuss Hitler's designs on the Czech Sudetenland

September 29 - Chamberlain and Daladier agree at Munich that Hitler may annex the Czech Sudetenland, with its largely German population

September 30 - Neville Chamberlain returns to Britain from Munich claiming to have achieved 'peace for our time... peace with honour'

September 30 - Poland insists that the industrial area of Teschen Silesia, largely inhabited by Poles, be ceded by Czechoslovakia

October - the Sudetenland is transferred from Czechoslovakia to Germany, in accordance with the Munich agreement

October - Adolf Hitler makes unacceptable demands upon Poland, including the transfer of the free port of Danzig to Germany

October - Adolf Hitler demands a strip of territory through the Polish corridor to reunite Germany with East Prussia

November 9 - Nazi gangs smash the premises of Jews throughout Germany and Austria in a night that becomes known as Kristallnacht, the night of cut glass

1939

Two million Anderson air-raid shelters are distributed to British homes, to be constructed in the garden from corrugated steel panels

German physicists, led by Otto Hahn, announce their discovery of nuclear fission

W.H. Auden and Christopher Isherwood emigrate together to the USA, later becoming US citizens

James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake* is published after 17 years in the making

Barbara Hepworth and Ben Nicholson move their studios to St Ives

US author Henry Miller publishes in Paris *Tropic of Capricorn*, about his adolescence in New York

Eugenio Pacelli is elected pope and takes the name Pius XII

Madrid falls to the Nationalist forces, bringing the Spanish Civil War to an end and Franco to power

Tommy Handley has a huge success in the British comedy radio programme *ITMA* (It's That Man Again)

James Thurber publishes his short story *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*

Marian Anderson's concert at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington effectively launches the US civil rights movement

Victor Fleming directs 17-year-old Judy Garland in the film of the famous musical *The Wizard of Oz*

US chemist Linus Pauling publishes his collected discoveries on *The nature of the chemical bond*

John Steinbeck's novel *The Grapes of Wrath* follows the Joad family, sharecroppers who are forced to move west to escape the horrors of the Dust Bowl

Irish author Flann O'Brien publishes his first novel, *At Swim-Two-Birds*

Ninotchka, directed by Ernst Lubitsch, is another great success for the Swedish film star Greta Garbo

Robert Menzies, leader of the United Australia Party, becomes Australia's prime minister

Archaeological treasures are discovered in an Anglo-Saxon ship burial at Sutton Hoo, in Suffolk

Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears give a series of recitals in the USA at the start of a lifelong partnership

US designer Igor Sikorsky tests the first practical helicopter, using a rotor on a long tail boom to counter torque

Australian author Patrick White publishes his first novel, *Happy Valley*

Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh star in *Gone with the Wind*, based on Margaret Mitchell's novel

British racing driver Malcolm Campbell sets a new water speed record of 141 mph

Austrian conductor Herbert von Karajan becomes music director of the Berlin State Opera

British author Christopher Isherwood publishes his novel *Goodbye to Berlin*, based on his own experiences in the city

British pianist Myra Hess begins a wartime series of lunchtime concerts in London's National Gallery

Igor Stravinsky moves to the USA from Paris, his home for nearly 30 years, and settles in Hollywood

John Ford directs John Wayne in the film *Stagecoach*

Joaquin Rodrigo's concerto for guitar and orchestra, the *Concierto de Aranjuez*, has its first performance in Barcelona

US crime-writer Raymond Chandler publishes his first novel, *The Big Sleep*, introducing the hard-boiled detective Philip Marlowe

The US jazz saxophonist Charlie Parker acquires the nickname 'Yardbird', or simply 'Bird'

February 2 - de Valera declares that Eire will be neutral in any forthcoming European war

March - Hungary aligns itself with the Axis powers, signing Germany and Japan's Anti-Comintern Pact

March 15 - Hitler's armies smash their way into Czechoslovakia and enter Prague, against all his previous promises

March 31 - the recent fate of Czechoslovakia prompts France and Britain to guarantee the security of Poland

May 3 - Stalin appoints Vyacheslav Molotov as People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs for the USSR

May 11 - an incident on the border between Japanese Manchukuo and Soviet territory sparks a four-month war with the USSR that brings heavy Japanese losses

August: a Franco-British military mission arrives in Moscow to persuade Stalin to join a pact in defence of Poland

August - helped by the results of Polish cryptographers, Bletchley Park begins to gain invaluable access to German military secrets

August 2 - German-born US physicist Albert Einstein writes to President Roosevelt, warning of the potential of an atomic bomb

August 21 - Ribbentrop flies to Moscow to sign a Nonaggression Pact with Molotov, depriving Britain and France of an ally

August 21 - a secret protocol, attached to the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, divides Poland and the Baltic states between Germany and Russia

August 27: the He-178, designed by Hans von Ohain, becomes the first jet engine to fly, with a test flight lasting five minutes

September 1 - Adolf Hitler launches a massive attack on Poland, with tanks crossing the border and air raids on Warsaw

September 1 - Spain and Portugal declare that they will maintain their neutrality in the European war that now seems inevitable

September 1 - George Marshall becomes US Army chief of staff, a post he retains to the end of World War II

September 3 - Britain and France, receiving no answer from Hitler to their ultimatum over

his attack on Poland, declare war on Germany

September 3 - on the very first day of the war a U-boat sinks a British liner, the *Athenia*, with the loss of 112 civilian lives

The new German technique of *blitzkrieg* ('lightning war') is demonstrated with devastating effect against Poland

French troops rush to defend France's border with Germany, along the heavily fortified Maginot Line

A British Expeditionary Force (BEF) of about 150,000 infantry crosses the Channel to help defend France's border with Belgium

In spite of the Axis agreement of 1936, Mussolini declines to bring Italy into the war on Hitler's side

September - Alan Turing joins the code-breaking team working on Enigma at Bletchley Park

September 4 - Jan Smuts defeats J.B.M. Hertzog in a vote on neutrality, and takes Hertzog's place as South African premier

September 4 - Jan Smuts brings South Africa into the war in support of Britain

September 17 - a German U-boat sinks the British aircraft carrier *Courageous* off the coast of Ireland

September 17 - a Russian army invades Poland from the east, fulfilling the secret protocol of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact

September 19 - Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark jointly declare their neutrality

September 27 - Warsaw falls, after a brave resistance, whereupon Germany and Russia carve up Poland

September - Nazi murder squads (*Einsatzgruppen*) kill Poland's elite

October 14 - a German U-boat sinks the British battleship *Royal Oak* at anchor in Scapa Flow

November - Adolf Hitler orders the 'mercy killing' of all those with specified categories of infirmity, beginning with newborn babies and young children

November 30 - Soviet troops cross the borders of Finland, beginning the brief Russo-Finnish War, in keeping with the secret protocol of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact

December - Phoney War, Bore War, *drôle de guerre* and *Sitzkrieg* are comments on the lack of military action from any side so far

December 6-22 - the Finns win spectacular victories in counter-attacks against the Russian invaders, destroying four Soviet divisions

December 13 - the German pocket battleship *Admiral Graf Spee* is scuttled after a battle with Allied ships near the river Plate

December 14 - the USSR is expelled from the League of Nations because of the Soviet invasion of Finland

T.S. Eliot gives cats a poetic character in *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*

1940

American Ballet Theatre, directed by Lucia Chase and Richard Pleasant, begins its first season in New York

English potter Bernard Leach publishes an influential manual, *A Potter's Book*

Mohammed Ali Jinnah puts forward the concept of independent Muslim states within India

Charles Eames and Eero Saarinen design an 'organic chair' for mass production in moulded plywood and aluminium

The Conservative Colorados recover power in Paraguay and reimpose military rule

Richard Addinsell writes the *Warsaw Concerto* as music for the film *Dangerous Moonlight*

British biologists Ernst Chain and Howard Florey develop penicillin as a safe and useful antibacterial drug

German novelist Thomas Mann takes US citizenship and in 1941 moves to California

US author Richard Wright publishes *Native Son*, his semi-autobiographical novel about racial equality

Bob Hope and Bing Crosby star together in *Road to Singapore*, the first of a long series of 'Road' films

Gene Kelly makes his name on Broadway in the Rodgers and Hart musical *Pal Joey*

Ernest Hemingway publishes the novel *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, set in the Spanish Civil War

Avraham Stern forms the Stern Gang, a new Jewish terrorist group in Palestine and an offshoot of Irgun

Flann O'Brien's *The Third Policeman* is rejected by numerous publishers before becoming, decades later, his best-known novel

British actors Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier marry

Roger Schutz establishes an ecumenical religious order at Taizé in France

Radar masts along the coasts of Britain give early warning of German air attacks

John Ford directs Henry Fonda in the film of Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*

Charlie Chaplin ridicules Hitler in *The Great Dictator*, the first film in which he speaks coherent dialogue

An assassin sent by Stalin kills the exiled Trotsky in his home in Mexico City

Schoolboys, out hunting, discover paintings in a cave at Lascaux after their dog falls into a hole

Civilian heroism is rewarded in Britain with a new medal, the George Cross

Working as an official war artist, Henry Moore creates an iconic series of drawings of Londoners sleeping at night in underground stations

US author Carson McCullers publishes her first novel, *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*

Lord Craigavon (previously James Craig) dies in office after nineteen years as northern Ireland's prime minister

After his London studio is bombed, Henry Moore moves to Much Hadham, where he works and lives for the rest of his life

In *To the Finland Station* Edmund Wilson discusses the development of socialism and

revolution, culminating in Lenin and Trotsky

US choreographer Agnes de Mille creates *Black Ritual* for American Ballet Theatre

William Joyce, broadcasting in English from Germany, becomes notorious in Britain as Lord Haw-Haw

January 8 - the ration book is introduced in Britain, at first just for bacon, butter and sugar, but soon also for meat, eggs, tea, milk, cheese, jam, and clothing

February 16 - 303 captured merchant seamen are rescued in a daring British raid on the German supply ship *Altmark*, in use as a floating prison in a Norwegian fjord

March 12 - the Treaty of Moscow ends the war between the USSR and Finland, after 200,000 Soviet deaths in the three months of hostilities

from April 4 - more than 4000 Polish officers are massacred at Katyn on Stalin's orders

April 5 - inactivity during the Phoney War prompts Neville Chamberlain to assure the House of Commons that Hitler has 'missed the bus'

April 9 - German ships and marines occupy the harbours of neutral Denmark and Norway

April 9 - the German invasion of Norway includes the world's first airborne assault, with troops arriving by plane to attack the airports of Oslo and Stavanger

April 10 - Allied ships on patrol in the North Sea, soon followed by troops, rush to the defence of Norway

May 10 - German tanks cross the borders into neutral Netherlands, Luxembourg and Belgium

May 10 - after the German invasion of the Netherlands and Belgium, Winston Churchill replaces Chamberlain as the British prime minister

May 10 - German troops force their way into France through the Ardennes, launching the Battle of France

May 11 - the French rely on the heavily fortified Maginot Line to keep out the Germans, but they outflank it

May 12 - only two days after crossing the Netherlands border, a German division reaches the coast near Rotterdam

May 12 - Queen Wilhelmina and the Dutch government escape just in time to Britain

May 13 - Winston Churchill, in his first speech to the House of Commons as prime minister, offers the nation nothing but 'blood, toil, tears and sweat'

May 14 - the caretaker government of the Netherlands surrenders to the German invaders

May 14 - the Local Defence Volunteers are formed in Britain and are soon given, on Winston Churchill's suggestion, the name Home Guard

May - a German army races west through northern France, aiming to cut off the Allied troops in Belgium

May - fishing smacks and private launches are enlisted from southern England's coasts and rivers for a rescue mission across the Channel

May 19 - German tanks reach the French coast at Abbeville, nine days after crossing the border from Germany

May 26 - evacuation begins from Dunkirk, and over the next ten days some 860 vessels ferry troops across the Channel

May 27 - the Belgians surrender to the German armies encircling them north and south

June 4 - some 340,000 British and French troops have by now been rescued from Dunkirk, but a million Allied soldiers are now prisoners of the Germans

June 7 - the last Allied forces withdraw from Norway, leaving the country entirely in the hands of its German occupiers

June 10 - Mussolini declares war on a France already on the verge of defeat

June 10 - German and Italian planes begin a prolonged assault on the Mediterranean island of Malta

June 14 - a German army takes Paris and pushes on further south into the Rhone valley

June 16 - Marshal Pétain, French hero from World War I, becomes France's prime minister

June 16 - Marshal Pétain, as the new premier of France, immediately asks Germany for an armistice

June 18 - Charles de Gaulle broadcasts to the French nation from London, declaring himself the leader of the Free French

June 20 - Mussolini invades France in the last-minute hope of gaining some territory in the armistice settlement

June 22 - Adolf Hitler attends the signing of the armistice with France, in the railway carriage used for the armistice after the German defeat in 1918

June 22 - the armistice leaves France with the southern part of the country, with a new capital at Vichy

June 24 - a delegation from France, defeated and partly occupied by Germany, signs in Rome an armistice with Mussolini's Italy

June 26 - the British government gives recognition to Charles de Gaulle as official leader of the Free French

July - increased German U-boat activity after the fall of France launches the crucial Battle of the Atlantic

July - Germany takes control of Romania, to secure the country's rich oil fields

July 3 - British warships bombard the French fleet in harbour at Mers-el-Kébir, in Algeria, killing more than 1250 sailors

July 6 - German bombers attack the barracks at Aldershot, in the first aerial raid of what becomes the Battle of Britain

July 16 - Hitler orders preparations for the invasion of England, under the codename Operation Sea Lion

August 13 - the Battle of Britain reaches its most intense phase, with 1500 German planes involved in a single day's assault

August 20 - Churchill says of the Battle of Britain pilots that never has so much been owed by so many to so few

September 7 - the first German night-time bombing raid on London signals the start of the Blitz on British cities

September 27 - Germany, Italy and Japan form a Tripartite Pact as a military alliance

October - President Roosevelt, campaigning for a third term, assures Americans that he will

not send their sons to fight in Europe's war

October - the US government provides 50 destroyers to boost the British escort of convoys in the Atlantic

October 2 - after the summer's losses in the air, Hitler orders the effective cancellation of operation Sea Lion, the planned invasion of Britain

October 4 - Mussolini plans a new Roman empire, reaching like the first one round the entire Mediterranean

October 23 - Moscow appoints Tito to head the Communist Party of Yugoslavia

October 28 - Italian troops cross the Albanian border in the hope of a *blitzkrieg* against Greece

October 31 - the castle at Colditz, adapted as a high-security prisoner-of-war camp, receives 140 Polish officers as its first inmates

November 5 - F.D. Roosevelt wins an unprecedented third US presidential term, albeit it with a considerably reduced share of the vote

November 11-12 - British aircraft sink three Italian battleships at anchor in Taranto harbour

November 14-15 - Coventry suffers a raid of such intensity that the new technique becomes known as carpet bombing

November 20 - Hungary, Romania and Slovakia sign the Tripartite Pact, joining the war on the German side

November 25 - the de Havilland Mosquito, a multi-purpose wooden aeroplane widely used by the RAF in World War II, makes its first flight

December 18 - Adolf Hitler orders preparations to be made for Operation Barbarossa, his planned invasion of the Soviet Union

1941

British aviator Amy Johnson is reported missing over the Thames estuary when flying on a mission for the Air Ministry

Scott Fitzgerald's final and incomplete novel, *The Last Tycoon*, is published posthumously

Greta Garbo receives terrible reviews for *Two Faced Woman*, which turns out to be her last film and the beginning of a long retirement

English composer Michael Tippett completes his oratorio *A Child of our Time* (not performed until 1944)

Agee and Evans give a warm personal view of America in *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*

Bertolt Brecht's play set in the Thirty Years' War, *Mother Courage*, has its first performance in Zurich

Henri Matisse, recovering from an operation, develops his technique of *gouaches découpées* (cut-out patches of painted paper)

Greek soprano Maria Callas sings her first Tosca, in the opera house in Athens

The US army invests in a significant new vehicle, placing an order for 16,000 jeeps

Aung San and some revolutionary colleagues (the Thirty Comrades) receive military training in Japan, aiming to evict the British from Burma

Australian prime minister Robert Menzies is forced to resign after losing the confidence of his cabinet

Citizen Kane is written, directed and starred in by 26-year-old Orson Welles

John Huston, for his first film, directs Humphrey Bogart in the third screen adaptation of *The Maltese Falcon*

British author Rebecca West publishes an account of Yugoslavia, *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon*

US author Eudora Welty publishes her first collection of stories, *A Curtain of Green*

The US Congress declares war on Japan and President Roosevelt endorses the order

January 6 - President Roosevelt defines to Congress his concept of Four Freedoms – of speech, of worship, from want, from fear

January 22 - Archibald Wavell's Allied divisions, after a rapid desert campaign, drive the Italians from the Libyan port of Tobruk

February 3 - Adolf Hitler sends Erwin Rommel to save the Italians from looming disaster in north Africa

March 11 - Congress passes the Lend-lease Act, enabling President Roosevelt to provide much needed help to US allies

March 28 - the Italian navy, defeated off Cape Matapan, ceases to be a significant factor in the Mediterranean

April 6 - the Allies recover Ethiopia from the Italians and Haile Selassie returns to his throne in Addis Ababa

April 6 - German troops invade and rapidly overrun Yugoslavia

April 7-28 - German troops move on from Yugoslavia into Greece, driving a small British force from the mainland across the sea to Crete

May - in preparation for the invasion of Russia, Adolf Hitler and Heinrich Himmler set up Special Task Commandos (*Einsatzkommando*) to exterminate Communists and Jews

May 10 - Rudolf Hess, Hitler's deputy in the Nazi party, flies to Britain on a bizarre secret mission

May 15 - a Gloster E.28/39 air frame becomes the first craft to fly with a Whittle jet engine

May 19 - the Vietminh is founded as a guerrilla force to liberate Vietnam from the Japanese, and Ho Chi Minh soon emerges as the leader

May 27 - Germany's latest battleship, the *Bismarck*, is sunk in the Atlantic with the loss of nearly all her 2222 crew

May 27 - with Iceland as an Allied base, convoys can now be escorted by warships for the entire Atlantic crossing

May 30 - German forces evict the British from the island of Crete after a week-long battle

June 22 - German armies cross the border to invade Russia on a front from the Baltic to southern Poland

June 27 - the Communist Party of Yugoslavia appoints Tito to head a guerrilla force to resist the recent German invasion of the country

July - Churchill appoints Claude Auchinleck as British commander in North Africa and the Middle East

July - the systematic shooting of Russian Jews by German *Einsatzgruppen* is the first step

in the development of the Holocaust

July - Britain's Special Air Service (SAS) is formed for unorthodox guerrilla operations in the north African desert

July 16 - less than four weeks after crossing the Russian border, a German army is within 200 miles of Moscow

July 26 - Roosevelt appoints Douglas MacArthur commander of US forces in the Far East

July 31 - Goering orders Reinhard Heydrich to prepare plans for the 'final solution of the Jewish question'

August - Nazi experiments are carried out on Jews and Soviet prisoners of war to find effective means of murder by gas

August - British and USSR troops invade Iran to depose the oil-rich Reza Shah, fearing that he may take the side of the Germans

August 14 - Roosevelt and Churchill publish a joint Atlantic Charter, foreseeing a future free from 'Nazi tyranny'

August 21 - the first of the Arctic convoys leaves Scapa Flow, in the north of Scotland, taking Hurricane fighters and raw materials to the Soviet Union

September - de Gaulle forms in London the French National Committee, a government in exile in London for the Free French

September 8 - a week or two after reaching Leningrad a Germany army establishes a siege that will last 900 days

September 16 - with British and Russian support, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi succeeds his deposed father as shah of Iran

September 27 - *Patrick Henry*, the first of the US Liberty ships, is soon followed by more than 2700 others, built at record speed

October 16 - Japanese emperor Hirohito appoints Tojo Hideki as the country's prime minister

October 16 - Adolf Eichmann, in an official letter about policy in relation to the Jews, uses the phrase 'the final solution'

November 13 - the British aircraft carrier *Ark Royal* is sunk by a U-boat in the Mediterranean

December - Enigma is now being decoded fast enough at Bletchley to give the Allies advance warning of German plans

December 5 - the German advance is held just short of Moscow as winter arrives

December 7 - in three adapted vans at Chelmno, in western Poland, the Germans begin using poison gas to kill Jews

December 7 - without warning, 400 Japanese planes attack and destroy US warships at anchor in Pearl Harbor

December 8 - within hours of Pearl Harbor, Japanese aircraft attack the Philippines and destroy half the available US planes

December 10 - Japanese planes sink the British battleship *Prince of Wales* and the battle cruiser *Repulse* off the coast of Malaya

December 13 - Bulgaria signs the Anti-Comintern Pact and joins the war on Germany's side

December 19 - Italian frogmen enter the harbour at Alexandria and cripple two British

battleships

December 25 - Hong Kong surrenders to an invading Japanese force

December 28 - Burmese politician Aung San raises a Burma Independence Army in Thailand to support the imminent Japanese invasion of his country

1942

Yitzhak Shamir becomes leader of the terrorist Stern gang in Palestine

A report by UK economist William Beveridge proposes a wide-ranging social security programme for postwar Britain

Dmitry Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony, mainly written during the siege of Leningrad, has its premiere in Kuybishev

Leslie Howard directs and stars in *The First of the Few*, about the creator of the Spitfire, with music by William Walton

US choreographer Merce Cunningham begins a long creative partnership with the composer John Cage

Aaron Copland's ballet *Rodeo* has choreography by Agnes de Mille

David Lean and Noel Coward create a classic wartime film, *In Which We Serve* about the crew of a naval destroyer

A Jewish girl in Amsterdam, Anne Frank, is given a diary for her thirteenth birthday

Mahatma Gandhi launches the Quit India Movement, calling on a large crowd in Bombay to 'do or die' in the struggle to expel the British

Algerian nationalist Ferhat Abbas produces a manifesto demanding independence from

France

French author Albert Camus creates an early anti-hero in his novel *The Outsider* (*L'Étranger*)

Mahatma Gandhi and nearly all the leaders of India's Congress party are arrested and will remain in prison until the end of the war

French author Marguerite Duras makes her name with her partly autobiographical novel *The Sea Wall*

French music student Pierre Boulez joins a harmony class taught by Olivier Messiaen at the Paris Conservatoire

Italian director Luchino Visconti's first film, *Obsession*, brings neorealism to the cinema

US poet Ezra Pound, in Italy during the war, broadcasts Fascist propaganda aimed at the United States

US poet Randall Jarrell publishes his first collection, *Blood for a Stranger*

Michael Curtiz directs Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman in *Casablanca*

James Cagney stars in the screen musical *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, directed by Michael Curtiz

Katherine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy star in the first of many films together, *Woman of the Year*

A rich hoard of Roman silver is unearthed near Mildenhall, in Suffolk

English children's author Enid Blyton introduces the Famous Five in *Five on a Treasure*

Island

Thornton Wilder's play *The Skin of our Teeth* has a mixed reception at its New Haven premiere

US crooner Bing Crosby sings Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*

January - Aung San's Burma Independence Army enters Burma as part of the Japanese invasion

January - before the end of the month the Japanese control the whole of Malaya

January 20 - Reinhard Heydrich convenes a meeting at Wannsee to discuss the practical details of the 'final solution'

February - Arthur Harris is put in charge of British Bomber Command, and is later much criticized for his ruthless approach

February - Joseph Stilwell is appointed to head the US military mission to Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek)

February - an Indian National Army is formed among Indian soldiers captured by the Japanese, with the purpose of evicting the British from India

February - Hitler's chief architect, Albert Speer, is put in charge of Germany's armaments programme

February 1 - Vidkun Quisling, founder of the Norwegian Fascist party, is appointed president of German-occupied Norway

February 15 - Singapore falls to the continuing Japanese onslaught in southeast Asia

February 19 - Japanese aircraft attack Australia, bombing Darwin's harbour and air force base

March - the Nazis build a new style of concentration camp, at Auschwitz in Poland, in which the fit will work and the unfit will be killed

from March - German industrial enterprises are moved from the vulnerable Ruhr valley to the slave labour facilities of Auschwitz

March 8 - the Japanese invasion of Papua signals the start of the three-year New Guinea campaign

April - British engineer Barnes Wallis designs a bouncing and rotating bomb for use against German dams

April - Pierre Laval becomes head of the government in German-backed Vichy France

April - Germany launches a bombing campaign specifically targeting historic British cities with three stars in the Baedeker guidebook

April 15 - George VI awards the George Cross (for civilian valour) to the entire besieged island of Malta

April 18 - US planes, flying from an aircraft carrier, undertake a difficult bombing raid on Tokyo

May - after losing the Philippines to the Japanese, Douglas MacArthur declares 'I shall return'

May - Burma becomes the last in the series of important southeast Asian territories to fall into Japanese hands

May - German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer flies to neutral Sweden to contact the British

on behalf of conspirators against Hitler

May - William Slim gets the remaining British forces back to India from Burma, in a fighting withdrawal that lasts two months

May 27 - Reinhard Heydrich is fatally wounded by Free Czech agents parachuted in from Britain

May 31 - three Japanese midget submarines penetrate Sydney harbour in Australia

June - US physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer is appointed director of the Manhattan Project to develop a nuclear weapon

June 7 - US planes sink four Japanese aircraft carriers in the battle of Midway, halting for the first time Japan's aggressive expansion

June 9 - Hitler orders a massacre at Lidice, a village near Prague, in retaliation for the death of Heydrich

June 21 - German general Erwin Rommel captures Tobruk, along with 33,000 British soldiers and valuable supplies

July - Anne Frank and her family go into hiding in an Amsterdam attic

July - Treblinka is constructed, in Poland, as the Nazis' first large-scale and purpose-built death camp

July - a renewed German campaign eastwards in Russia results in the capture of Sebastopol and the Crimea

July - Russia's new heavy industry is relocated to the east to escape the German advance

July 4 - Auchinleck finally stops Rommel's advance, in the first battle of El Alamein

August - US general Dwight Eisenhower is appointed to command Allied landings in north Africa

August 7 - US and Japanese forces begin a violent six-month struggle for Guadalcanal, one of the Solomon Islands

August 13 - Bernard Montgomery is appointed commander of the demoralized British and Commonwealth Eighth Army in North Africa

August 19 - Canadian troops provide most of the assault force in a disastrous raid on Dieppe

August 30 - Rommel's new thrust towards Alexandria is halted by the British at Alam al-Halfa, a ridge near El Alamein

September 13 - a desperate battle begins for the city of Stalingrad, with house-to-house fighting between Germans and Russians

October 3 - the German V-2 rocket is successfully tested by Wernher von Braun and his team at Peenemünde

October 23 - Montgomery launches the second battle of El Alamein against Rommel

November - in a few weeks Montgomery and the Eighth Army push Rommel back some 1200 miles, into Tunisia

November 8 - American and British forces, under Dwight Eisenhower, land in Morocco and Algeria

November 11 - Hitler, disregarding the armistice, sends German troops to take control of Vichy France

November 12 - after three days of resistance the French commanders in north Africa bring their troops over to the Allied side

November 25 - Soviet tanks complete the encirclement of 20 German divisions at Stalingrad

November 27 - French crews in Toulon scuttle the fleet to prevent it falling into German hands

December 2 - Enrico Fermi and his team in Chicago achieve the first nuclear chain reaction

December 2 - the loss of merchant shipping to U-boats reaches a peak in the Battle of the Atlantic, with 1.5 million tons sunk in the last quarter of the year

December 17 - an international declaration condemns Germany's 'bestial policy of cold-blooded extermination'

1943

French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre expounds his theory of existentialism in *Being and Nothingness* ('L'Être et le néant')

The musical *Oklahoma!* launches the partnership of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II

English contralto Kathleen Ferrier makes her London début in Handel's *Messiah* in Westminster Abbey

Power is seized in Argentina by a new military junta, the Group of United Officers

11-year-old Elizabeth Taylor co-stars with a collie in *Lassie Come Home*

Basil Brooke begins an unbroken 20-year period in office as Unionist prime minister of northern Ireland

William Tubman begins a 28-year spell as president of Liberia

Zoot Suit riots, starting in Los Angeles, target young Mexican Americans

British conductor John Barbirolli is appointed to direct the Hallé orchestra

Pablo Picasso transforms a bicycle's handlebars and saddle into *Head of a Bull*

The Ba'th party is founded by Michel Aflaq and others in Syria, with a pan-Arab political agenda

Future Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin becomes leader of the underground terrorist group Irgun

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 is repealed in the US, but there are to be only 105 Chinese immigrants each year

Jean-Paul Sartre begins a new career as a dramatist with his first play, *The Flies* ('Les Mouches')

January - Hitler appoints Karl Dönitz as commander of the German navy

January 12 - Roosevelt and Churchill meet in Casablanca for a strategic conference

January 24 - the Casablanca Conference includes the decision to insist on unconditional surrender by the Axis powers

January 31 - with much of the German Sixth Army destroyed, the survivors led by Field Marshal Friedrich Paulus surrender at Stalingrad

February 9 - Orde Wingate and his Chindits launch a guerrilla campaign behind the Japanese lines in Burma

February 9 - after a six-month battle, US troops win the Pacific base of Guadalcanal from the Japanese

March 20 - Mao Zedong becomes official leader of the Chinese Communist Party, as the elected Chairman of the Central Committee and the Politburo

April - Martin Bormann, previously head of the party secretariat, becomes Hitler's personal secretary

April 19 - new Allied successes against the German U-boats provide a turning point in the battle of the Atlantic

April 19 - Jews in Warsaw resist a fierce German onslaught for a month before their ghetto is finally destroyed

April-May - the Allied destruction of U-boats climbs to its highest level in the Battle of the Atlantic, with 56 sunk in two months

May - the victory of the Allies in north Africa brings to an end the three-year siege of Malta

May 7 - the Allies capture Tunis, taking 250,000 German and Italian prisoners and winning control of North Africa

May 16 - two hydroelectric schemes in the Ruhr valley are destroyed by the RAF's Dam Busters and their bouncing bombs in Operation Chastise

July 10 - British and American troops land in Sicily to begin the Italian campaign

July 13 - Hitler's attempt to take Kursk (in response to Stalingrad) results in the German loss of 70,000 men and 1500 tanks

July - Belsen, used as a prisoner-of-war camp since 1940, is turned into a concentration camp

July 25 - the king of Italy, Victor Emmanuel III, has Mussolini arrested and appoints in his place a field marshal, Pietro Badoglio

July 28 - the Hamburg Fire Department coins the word *Feuersturm* ('firestorm') to describe the unprecedented effects of an RAF raid on the city

August 3 - Italians signs a secret armistice with the Allies, as Allied troops land in Sicily

August 8 - British general Harold Alexander is appointed commander-in-chief of all Allied forces in the Italian campaign

August 12 - on Hitler's orders, the SS rescue Mussolini from house arrest in the mountains of central Italy

August 16 - all German and Italian troops are by now driven out of Sicily or captured by the Allies

August 17 - the RAF bomb the German V-2 rocket research station at Peenemünde

August 23 - Allied bombers begin four months of night-time raids on Berlin

September - a strong Allied force lands at Salerno, south of Naples

September 8 - Italy, abandoning her Axis partners, surrenders unconditionally to the Allies

September 27 - a premature uprising against the Germans in Naples results in a massacre of the inhabitants

October - British admiral Louis Mountbatten is appointed to head the new Southeast Asia Command, with his headquarters in Delhi

October - British general William Slim is appointed to command the Fourteenth Army, formed specifically for the campaign to recover Burma

October 1 - the Allies move north from Salerno and capture Naples

October 13 - Italy changes sides and declares war on her recent ally, Germany

October 24 - Subhash Chandra Bose, as leader of the Indian National Army, declares war on Britain

November - the Germans halt the Allied advance along the Gustav Line, which includes Monte Cassino

November - Mussolini becomes Hitler's puppet ruler of a new Fascist republic in north Italy

December - Carl ('Tooe') Spaatz is appointed to command the US Strategic Air Forces in Europe

Colossus Mark I, the world's first computer, goes into decoding service at Bletchley Park in Britain

1944

Ibn Saud and his US partners set up ARAMCO, the Arabia-American Oil Company

Commissioned by a church in Northampton to sculpt a Madonna and Child, British sculptor Henry Moore produces the first of his family groups

Saul Bellow publishes his first novel, *Dangling Man*, a study of an intellectual adrift as he waits to be drafted into the army

Composer Leonard Bernstein and choreographer Jerome Robbins work together on the ballet *Fancy Free*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in Buchenwald, writes his *Letters and Papers from Prison*

The monastery and town of Monte Cassino are left in ruins after the Allies finally break through the German defences

Fancy Free becomes *On the Town*, a Broadway musical by Leonard Bernstein, directed by Jerome Robbins

The World Bank and IMF are conceived at an international conference in the USA, at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire

12-year-old Elizabeth Taylor co-stars with a horse in the film *National Velvet*

Boston writer Robert Lowell publishes his first book of poems, *Land of Unlikeness*

Jorge Luis Borges publishes *Fictions*, a collection of short stories

The separate poems forming T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets* are brought together for the first time as a single volume, published in New York

Laurence Olivier directs and stars in a patriotic film of *Henry V* with stirring music by William Walton

An uprising in Guatemala brings in a revolutionary junta and a left-wing programme of reform

Aaron Copland's ballet *Appalachian Spring* has choreography by Martha Graham

January - US general Dwight Eisenhower is appointed to command the Allied invasion of Normandy

January 10 - Galeazzo Ciano, Mussolini's son-in-law, is sentenced to death at the Verona trials and is executed

January 12 - the RAF's first jet, the Gloster Meteor, flies with a Whittle engine

January 22 - in Operation Shingle an Allied force lands at Anzio, on the west coast of Italy behind the German lines

January 27 - the German siege of Leningrad is finally broken, after 900 days

February - after relieving Leningrad, the Russians begin to drive the Germans back on all fronts

February 17 - US bombers destroy Japanese warships and planes in Operation Hailstone, a radar-guided night attack on the Truk Islands

March - a volunteer force, known as Merrill's Marauders, is commanded by Frank Merrill in US operations against the Japanese in Burma

March-June - William Slim secures the first Allied victories in the Burma campaign, at Imphal and Kohima in northeast India

May 18 - after a campaign of four months the monastery at Monte Cassino is captured, by Polish troops

June 4 - a multinational Allied force moves fast from Monte Cassino to capture Rome

June 6 - the Allies cross the Channel on D-day for the Normandy invasion

June 6 - British general Bernard Montgomery commands the Allied land forces in the Normandy Landing on D-day

June 9 - two pre-constructed harbours, known by the code name Mulberries, are towed across the Channel to Normandy

June 10 - German troops massacre more than 600 civilians in the French village of Oradour

June 13 - the first V-1 flying bombs (or doodlebugs) appear over London, numbering more than 2000 in two weeks

July 9 - American marines win the island of Saipan in the Marianas, bringing Japan within range of US bombers

July 20 - Adolf Hitler narrowly escapes death from a bomb placed by Claus von Stauffenberg

July 25 - the Messerschmitt Me 262 fighter-bomber flies into combat, introducing the jet era in aerial warfare

from July - more than 5000 Germans, among them Rommel, die because of the Stauffenberg plot

August - the Allied advance in Italy comes to a halt at the Gothic Line of German defences, north of Florence

August 1 - members of the Polish resistance rise against the Germans in Warsaw, in a conflict lasting two months and bringing massive casualties

August 4 - the hiding place in Amsterdam of Anne Frank and her family is discovered by the Gestapo

August 15 - the Seventh US army, commanded by Alexander Patch, opens another front with a landing on the French Riviera

August 19 - George Patton gets a division of his Third US Army across the Seine southeast of Paris

August 19 - barricades are built in the streets as Parisians stage an impromptu uprising against the Germans

August 24 - tanks of the Second French Armoured Division are the first of the Allies to enter and liberate Paris

August 24 - Romania changes sides to fight with the Red Army against Germany

August 26 - General de Gaulle walks down the Champs Elysées, and then on to Notre Dame, to massive acclaim

September - Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat in Budapest, saves thousands of Jews from extermination

September 3 - British forces liberate Brussels and on the next day reach Antwerp

September 8 - the first V-2 rocket lands on London, killing three people in Chiswick

September 8 - the first of many thousands of war brides arrive in Canada, mainly from Great Britain

September 8 - Bulgaria changes to the Allied side and Communists take control in Sofia

September 20 - Douglas MacArthur lands US troops on Leyte as the first step in recovering the Philippines

September 25 - 7500 British troops, trapped on the far side of the Rhine at Arnhem, are captured by the Germans

October 7 - delegates from 39 nations meet at Dumbarton Oaks, near Washington DC, to plan the future United Nations

October 11 - Hungary signs an armistice with the USSR

October 18 - Athens is liberated and the Greek government-in-exile returns, with George Papandreou at its head

October 25 - Japanese pilots fly the first of World War II's suicide or kamikaze missions

October 25 - victory over Japan in a massive 2-day battle at Leyte Gulf assures US recovery of Philippines

November - Tito and his partisans, with Soviet assistance, liberate Belgrade

November 7 - President Roosevelt, although seriously ill, is elected for a fourth term with Harry S. Truman as his vice-president

November 24 - American B-29 bombers take off from the newly captured Saipan on the long trip to bomb Tokyo

November 28 - Allied bombs destroy the strategic bridge in Thailand over the River Kwai, built by the Japanese using prisoners of war as slave labour

December 3 - civil war breaks out in Greece between rival groups of partisans resisting demobilization

December 16 - the Germans stage a counter-attack in the Ardennes region before being

pushed back in the Battle of the Bulge

December 21 - with Budapest still in German hands, the Soviets set up a provisional Hungarian government, at Debrecen

December 26 - the Soviet army surrounds the Hungarian capital, Budapest

1945

January - Allied bombing of Berlin forces Hitler to take refuge in his underground bunker

January 17 - after Soviet troops liberate Hungary, Raoul Wallenberg is abducted and vanishes

January 27 - the Red Army liberates the surviving prisoners at Auschwitz, who include the Italian novelist Primo Levi

Gamal Abdel Nasser and army colleagues form a secret party, the Free Officers, to fight for an independent Egyptian republic

Arab countries, gathered for a conference in Cairo, form the Arab League to further their joint interests

English painter Francis Bacon creates a sensation with his *Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucifixion*

English author Nancy Mitford has her first success with the novel *The Pursuit of Love*

Maurice 'Rocket' Richard is the first to score 50 goals in a Canadian National Hockey League season

Austrian philosopher Karl Popper publishes *The Open Society and its Enemies*

US dramatist Tennessee Williams has his first success with *The Glass Menagerie*

Benjamin Britten's opera *Peter Grimes* has its premiere in London, at the Sadler's Wells theatre

Jean-Louis Barrault directs and stars in the film *Les Enfants du Paradis*

Alexander Solzhenitsyn is sentenced to eight years in a Soviet labour camp for criticizing Stalin in a private correspondence

Demonstrations in Algeria spark off an uprising against French rule, which is put down with the loss of perhaps 10,000 Muslim lives

Igor Stravinsky's *Symphony in Three Movements*, premiered in New York, derives from music written for or inspired by films

Achmed Sukarno makes a unilateral declaration of Indonesian independence, and leads the subsequent struggle against the Dutch

Austrian composer Anton Webern is accidentally killed near Salzburg by a soldier in the US occupation force

Juan Perón, professed friend of the poor in Argentina, is arrested by brother officers

A mass demonstration by trade unions in Buenos Aires results in the release of Perón

Russian-born novelist Vladimir Nabokov becomes a US citizen

British chemist Dorothy Hodgkin describes the molecular structure of penicillin

Le Corbusier's use of *béton brut* (raw concrete) introduces Brutalism

A new constitution strengthens Tito's hold on Yugoslavia, and is soon followed by repressive measures

February 4 - Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill meet at Yalta to discuss Allied post-war plans

February 11 - Stalin agrees at Yalta to declare war on Japan after the end of the European war

February 11 - Stalin, at Yalta, promises free elections in post-war eastern Europe

February 13 - British bombers launch a devastating raid against Dresden, killing tens of thousands in a firestorm

February 13 - the Germans surrender Budapest to the Soviets after a costly siege

February 19 - American marines land on Japanese-occupied Iwo Jima, a volcanic island 650 miles southeast of Tokyo

March 3 - after a four-month siege of the city Douglas MacArthur returns to Manila, from which he was ejected in 1942 by the Japanese

March 6 - the Soviets install a puppet government in Romania while the fight continues against Germany

March 7 - Tito becomes head of a provisional government in newly liberated Yugoslavia

March 9 - napalm, used to bomb a crowded part of Tokyo, creates a firestorm in which 80,000 die

March 20 - William Slim drives the Japanese from Mandalay and moves on south to take Rangoon

March 22 - Patton's Third US Army is the first Allied force to cross the Rhine, at Oppenheim, south of Mainz

March 23 - Montgomery's Twenty-First Army Group crosses the Rhine at several points in the north

March 24 - at a cost of 20,000 dead, US marines win full control of the small strategic island of Iwo Jima

March 27 - Aung San's army, now named the Burma National Army, changes sides in a surprise move and attacks the Japanese

April - Adolf Hitler orders a scorched earth policy within Germany, in the path of the advancing Allies

April 5 - US troops land on the island of Okinawa, only 300 miles from the main islands of Japan

April 5 - Dietrich Bonhoeffer is executed in a Nazi concentration camp just a month before the end of the war in Europe

April 6 - thousands of Japanese kamikaze pilots die in massed suicide attacks in defence of the island of Okinawa

April 11 - American troops discover the German concentration camp at Buchenwald

April 12 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt dies and is succeeded by his vice-president, Harry S. Truman

April 12 - a US destroyer is sunk by a *baka*, a rocket-propelled version of a kamikaze attack

April 13 - Russian forces reach and capture the Austrian capital, Vienna

April 15 - the British reach Belsen and reveal appalling Nazi atrocities, worse even than at Buchenwald

April 25 - American and Soviet troops join up at Torgau, 70 miles south of Berlin

April 25 - Soviet armies form a complete circle around Berlin to isolate the city

April 28 - Benito Mussolini and his mistress, Clara Petacci, are shot by partisans and their bodies are hung from a gibbet in Milan

April 29 - against Hitler's specific orders, the commander of the German army in Italy surrenders to the Allies

April 29 - Adolf Hitler marries Eva Braun in his bunker, and holds a champagne reception with Goebbels as the principal guest

April 30 - Hitler chooses Admiral Dönitz as his successor and appoints his cabinet

April 30 - Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun retire to their marital quarters in the Berlin bunker and commit suicide

April 30 - Soviet troops storm the Reichstag in the centre of Berlin on the day when Adolf Hitler commits suicide in his bunker below them

April 30 - Anglo-US Fascist William Joyce ('Lord Haw Haw') makes his final English broadcast from Hamburg

May 1 - in the Berlin bunker, on the day after Hitler's death, Goebbels arranges for his six children to be lethally injected, and himself and his wife to be shot

May 2 - the German general commanding Berlin, Karl Weidling, surrenders the city to the Allies

May 4 - British general Bernard Montgomery receives the surrender of German forces in the north and west of Europe

May 5 - the citizens of Prague, and other cities in Czechoslovakia, rise against the Germans as the Red Army approaches from the east

May 7 - the unconditional surrender of all German forces is accepted at Eisenhower's headquarters

May 8 - World War II ends in Europe on V-E day (Victory in Europe day)

May 23 - Heinrich Himmler, escaping in disguise, takes poison when he is identified

June 21 - the Sudetenland is restored to Czechoslovakia, seven years after its transfer to Germany under the Munich Agreement

June 22 - after a ferocious three-month battle, Okinawa is in US hands

July 3 - the four Allied powers (USA, UK, France, USSR) provide occupation forces for separate zones of Austria, Germany and Berlin

July 16 - US scientists succeed in exploding an atom bomb at Alamogordo, a test site in the New Mexican desert

July 17 - Truman, Stalin and Churchill meet for a summit conference in Potsdam

July 26 - the Japanese emperor Hirohito argues the case for surrender but fails to persuade the military

July 26 - the British electorate dismisses Winston Churchill, giving the Labour party and Clement Attlee a landslide victory

July 26 - Winston Churchill, losing the postwar general election in Britain, has to yield his seat at Potsdam in mid-conference to Clement Attlee

August 6 - an atom bomb is dropped on Hiroshima, destroying four square miles of the city and killing 80,000 people

August 8 - the USSR declares war on Japan, two days after an atom bomb has been dropped on Hiroshima

August 9 - a second atom bomb is dropped from a US plane, this time over Nagasaki

August 12 - the Japanese in Korea surrender to the Russians in the north and to the Americans in the south

August 14 - the emperor Hirohito, on the first occasion that his people have heard his voice, declares on radio that defeat must be accepted

August 15 - the Allies celebrate V-J Day – victory over Japan and the end of the war

August 15 - a death sentence for the 89-year-old Vichy leader Philippe Pétain is commuted by de Gaulle to life imprisonment

August 19 - with the surrender of the Japanese, Vietminh guerrillas seize the capital of Vietnam, Hanoi

August 29 - Douglas MacArthur – in his role as Supreme Commander, Allied Powers – is appointed to administer postwar Japan

September 2 - Ho Chi Minh proclaims the democratic republic of Vietnam, independent of the colonial power, France

September 2 - World War II ends officially with the surrender of Japan, formally accepted by Douglas MacArthur

[1939-1945] - the death toll in World War II, double that of World War I, includes 17 million Russians and 8 million Chinese

[1939-1945] - by the end of the war the total number of Jews killed by the Nazis is around 6 million

[1939-1945] - in addition to 6 million Jews, the Nazi death camps have killed some 400,000 Gypsies and 100,000 'useless defectives'

September - Wernher von Braun and his team of scientists are taken to the USA to develop the German V-2 rocket into an intercontinental ballistic missile

October 15 - Vichy leader Pierre Laval, sentenced in a French court as a collaborator, is executed

October 24 - Vidkun Quisling, Fascist president of occupied Norway from 1942, is tried and executed for treason

October 24 - fifty-one states agree the Charter of the United Nations, thus establishing the UN

November 20 - twenty-two German defendants are put on trial in Nuremberg, charged with war crimes

Evelyn Waugh publishes *Brideshead Revisited*, a novel about a rich Catholic family in England between the wars

In George Orwell's fable *Animal Farm* a ruthless pig, Napoleon, controls the farmyard using the techniques of Stalin

Richard Wright publishes *Black Boy*, an account of his early life in Mississippi and then Chicago

1946

Sergei Eisenstein completes Part 2 of his intended epic film trilogy *Ivan the Terrible*

Sadler's Wells Ballet moves to the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden (and is known from 1956 as the Royal Ballet)

Perón, with the orchestrated support of gangs of thugs, is elected president of Argentina

The takeover of the Bank of England launches an extensive programme of nationalization by the Attlee government

Eudora Welty sets her novel *Delta Wedding* in a contemporary southern plantation

Howard Hawks directs Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall in *The Big Sleep*

Syria becomes fully independent with the withdrawal of French forces

Aung San's party, the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League, wins a landslide victory in the Burmese election

Frederick Ashton choreographs *Symphonic Variations*, to music by César Franck

David Lean directs Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson in Noel Coward's *Brief Encounter*

Sonatine, for flute and piano, brings early success to French composer Pierre Boulez

The Communists become the largest party in Czechoslovakia, winning 38% of the vote in a free election

A new style of American painting, involving artists such as Arshile Gorky and Jackson Pollock, is given the name Abstract Expressionism

US paediatrician Benjamin Spock recommends a permissive approach in his *Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care*

Eugene O'Neill's *The Iceman Cometh*, set in a down-and-out bar of the kind he had known in his youth, is performed in New York

Victor Emmanuel III abdicates in favour of his son a month before a referendum on the Italian monarchy

Bulgarian bass Boris Christoff makes his debut in Puccini's *La Bohème* in Reggio Calabria

The National Insurance Act secures state benefits in Britain for the sick, old and unemployed

The marriage of George Balanchine and Maria Tallchief unites two major stars of the US ballet scene

The first of about 20 US tests of atomic and hydrogen bombs is carried out on Bikini Atoll, in the Pacific

Australian painter Sidney Nolan begins a series of paintings on the theme of Ned Kelly

Irgun terrorists detonate a bomb in the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, killing 91 people

Robert Lowell's second collection, *Lord Weary's Castle*, contains 'The Quaker Graveyard in Nantucket' and 'Mr Edwards and the Spider'

Communist leader Enver Hoxha begins nearly 40 years as dictator of Albania

ENIAC is the world's first general-purpose electronic calculator

Ezra Pound, charged with treason for his wartime broadcasts, begins twelve years in a US hospital for the criminally insane

US poet Elizabeth Bishop publishes her first collection of poems, *North and South*

Benjamin Britten bases his *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* on a theme by Purcell

Germany's former foreign minister, Joachim von Ribbentrop, is sentenced to death at Nuremberg and is hanged

German conductor Wilhelm Furtwängler is acquitted of the charge of collaborating with the Nazis

The Indochina War breaks out in Vietnam between the French colonial forces and the Vietminh

Rationing in Britain gets worse rather than better, with bread and potatoes now added to the list

Titus Groan begins British author Mervyn Peake's trilogy of gothic novels

British conductor Thomas Beecham founds the third orchestra of his career, calling it the Royal Philharmonic

January 1: the Japanese emperor Hirohito renounces his traditional divine status and declares that he is mortal

January 5: William Joyce, widely known as Lord Haw-Haw, is hanged by the British as a traitor

March 5: Winston Churchill, in a speech in Fulton, Missouri, expresses the harsh truth that an iron curtain has descended across Europe

March 27: twenty-five Japanese defendants are put on trial in Tokyo, charged with war crimes

April 18 - the discredited League of Nations is finally disbanded

October 1 - twelve of the defendants at Nuremberg are sentenced to death by hanging

October 15: Hermann Goering, sentenced to death at Nuremberg, kills himself with a potassium cyanide capsule the night before he is due to be hanged

December - John D. Rockefeller Jr. gives land along the East River in New York for a permanent United Nations headquarters

1947

An election campaign in Poland, marked by violence and the use of terror, brings a Communist landslide

Peacetime conscription, known as national service, is introduced in Britain for all 18-year-old males

US scientist Edwin Land demonstrates a new device, the Polaroid camera, to the Optical Society of America

English author and alcoholic Malcolm Lowry publishes an autobiographical novel, *Under the Volcano*

The US Congress passes a National Security Act, setting up the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

Capa, Cartier-Bresson and others found Magnum, a cooperative of leading photographers

running their own picture agency

Swiss sculptor Alberto Giacometti begins to develop his characteristic style of tense elongated bronze sculpture

President Truman defines postwar US policy by pledging support for any nation defending itself against Communism

Francis Poulenc makes an opera of Guillaume Apollinaire's play *Les Mamelles de Tirésias* ('The Breasts of Tiresias')

Thor Heyerdahl sets sail across the Pacific from Peru in a balsa wood boat, the *Kon-Tiki*

Bertolt Brecht's play *The Life of Galileo* has its premiere in Los Angeles with Charles Laughton in the lead

Marlon Brando stars on Broadway in Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar named Desire*

Hungarian-born British engineer Dennis Gabor creates the first three-dimensional image from reflected light, subsequently known as a hologram

Saxophonist 'Bird' Parker forms his own quintet in New York, often to be heard at Minton's Playhouse in Harlem

33-year old Aung San, prime minister of Burma, and six of his ministers are assassinated during a cabinet meeting

In granting independence to India, Britain partitions the subcontinent along sectarian lines into Pakistan and the republic of India

Louis Mountbatten, the last viceroy of India, becomes also the first governor-general

Jawaharlal Nehru becomes prime minister of the newly independent republic of India

Muslim leader Mohammed Ali Jinnah becomes the first governor-general of the new state of Pakistan

J.B. Priestley challenges audiences with *An Inspector Calls*, a play in which moral guilt spreads like an infection

Baseball-player Jackie Robinson becomes the first African American in a major league team

French designer Christian Dior introduces the 'New Look', a lavish feminine style of dress welcomed by all after wartime austerity

US artist Jackson Pollock's drip paintings cause a stir in New York

Muslims proclaim an independent state in west Kashmir, defying the wishes of the maharaja

Italian author Primo Levi publishes *If This Is a Man*, based on his experiences in Auschwitz

Violent sectarian division in Kashmir results in war between India and Pakistan in support of the rival sides

The UN puts forward a plan for the partition of Palestine into separate Arab and Jewish states

Stafford Cripps becomes Britain's chancellor of the Exchequer in the Attlee government

Jean-Louis Barrault and his wife Madeleine Renaud establish their own company at the Théâtre Marigny in Paris

An Arab boy, herding goats in the Qumran desert, finds the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls

The first transistor is produced in the Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey

The Italian novelist Primo Levi publishes *If This Is a Man*, describing his ten months in Auschwitz

1948

Mahatma Gandhi is assassinated at a Delhi prayer meeting by a Hindu extremist, Nathuram Godse

US zoologist Alfred Charles Kinsey publishes some unexpected findings in his *Sexual Behaviour in the Human Male*

An armed coup, led by Klement Gottwald, imposes single-party Communist rule in Czechoslovakia

The British government advertises in Jamaica for people to come and work in Britain

The Cello Sonata by US composer Elliott Carter introduces 'metric modulation'

Norman Mailer has immediate success with his first novel, *The Naked and the Dead*, based on his military service in the Pacific

US poet Theodore Roethke publishes *The Lost Son*, his second collection

British dancer Robert Helpmann choreographs the ballet scenes in the film *The Red Shoes*, featuring Moira Shearer

Australia, aiming for a 2% population increase each year, takes steps to encourage European immigration

U Saw, a political rival of Aung San in Burma, is hanged for having plotted his

assassination

The Morris Minor is launched, designed by Alec Issigonis, and becomes one of Britain's best-selling cars

Israel declares its independence as a new Jewish state, with David Ben-Gurion as prime minister

Six Arab states attack Israel in support of the Palestinians, starting the first Arab-Israeli war

Ezra Pound publishes *Pisan Cantos*, about his postwar imprisonment in an American detention centre near Pisa

US novelist and poet Jack Kerouac coins a term for his contemporaries, the Beat Generation

Christopher Fry's verse drama *The Lady's Not For Burning* engages in high-spirited poetic word play

In the title of a new book US mathematician Norbert Wiener popularizes a term that he has coined, *Cybernetics*

The first West Indian immigrants to Britain arrive from Jamaica on the *Empire Windrush*

Vittorio de Sica directs the film *Bicycle Thieves*, a classic of Italian neorealism

George Balanchine's New York City Ballet becomes the resident company in the City Center for Music and Drama

George Marshall, the US secretary of state, launches a plan to distribute aid to sixteen European countries

Daniel Malan becomes South Africa's prime minister after his National Party wins the general election

Richard Strauss completes his *Four Last Songs* in the year before his death

British astronomer Fred Hoyle puts forward a 'steady-state' theory of the universe, in which matter is continually created

John Huston directs Humphrey Bogart in *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, a film based on B. Traven's novel of 1927

A 200-inch telescope goes into service at the Mount Palomar Observatory in California

Tito accepts Marshall Aid from the USA, setting Yugoslavia on the path of non-alignment in the Cold War

The World Council of Churches is established in Amsterdam – a significant step in the ecumenical movement

Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears together establish an annual festival in the Suffolk seaside town of Aldeburgh

The National Health Service comes into effect in Britain, providing free medical, dental and hospital services for the entire population

US lawyer Alger Hiss is denounced, controversially, as a Soviet spy

Ballerina Mikiko Matsuyama and her husband establish a family-run ballet company in Tokyo

In their manifesto *Refus global* fifteen artists and authors attack the values of conservative

Quebec

Daniel Malan moves swiftly to reinforce apartheid, South Africa's already existing system of racial segregation

US psychologist B.F. Skinner trains laboratory rats to use their brains in his 'Skinner box'

Swiss-born French architect Le Corbusier introduces the Modulor, an architectural unit based on the Golden Section

Kim Il Sung becomes prime minister of North Korea on the withdrawal of the Soviet occupying force

700,000 Palestinian Arabs flee from their homes in Israel and become refugees

The UN mediator in Palestine, Folke Bernadotte, proposes a peace plan involving the partition of Palestine

Jewish terrorists, opposed to the partition of Palestine, murder the UN peacemaker Folke Bernadotte

Donald Bradman retires from Test cricket with a tantalizing career average of 99.94 runs

A nine-year civil war begins in Colombia, bringing eventually some 200,000 deaths

French composer Pierre Schaeffer writes the first pieces of *musique concrète*, and coins the term

Louis St-Laurent succeeds Mackenzie King as Liberal leader and prime minister of Canada

US president Harry S. Truman wins election to the office in his own right

Prime minister Ben Chifley sees Australia's first mass-produced car, the Holden, roll off the production line

The Muslim Brotherhood carries out acts of terrorism against the Egyptian authorities and British troops

Olivier Messiaen completes *Turangaîlila-symphonie*, a symphony in ten movements for an orchestra including ondes martenot

Frederick Ashton's *Cinderella*, to music by Prokofiev, is the first full-length ballet by an English choreographer

June 24 - the Soviet Union imposes a blockade on Berlin by denying the other powers access through the land corridor to the city

June 26 - the Western powers respond to the Soviet blockade by launching the Berlin airlift, flying in necessary provisions of every kind

December 23 - Japanese premier Tojo Hideki is convicted in the Tokyo war crimes trial and is hanged

1949

The first Indo-Pakistani war ends with a Kashmir demarcation line approved by the UN but acceptable to neither state

Defeated by the Communists, Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek) resigns before the final collapse of his regime

Roland Petit's ballet *Carmen*, starring himself and his wife Zizi Jeanmaire, is a sensation at its London premiere

Egypt controls the Gaza Strip area of Palestine at the end of the Arab-Israeli war

French ex-convict Jean Genet begins his literary career with an autobiographical *Thief's*

Journal

Newfoundland joins Canada as its tenth province, completing the Confederation

Jordan occupies the West Bank area of Palestine at the end of the Arab-Israeli war

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is set up by the USA and Canada, together with Britain and other European countries, for purposes of collective security

Annie Allen, by US author Gwendolyn Brooks, describes in narrative verse the life of a black girl in contemporary USA

Death of a Salesman, by US playwright Arthur Miller, has its first performance in New York

The musical *South Pacific*, by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, opens on Broadway

US architect Philip Johnson builds the Glass House in Connecticut in the International Style

Exceptional Scythian remains are found in frozen burial mounds at Pazyryk, in the Altai region of Siberia

Radical young members, including Nelson Mandela, take control of the ANC

Ealing Studios produce a film of Compton Mackenzie's 1947 novel *Whisky Galore*, about an alcoholic windfall on the island of Barra

The first Soviet atomic bomb, called by the Americans Joe One, is successfully tested in Kazakhstan

Karl von Frisch demonstrates that bees make use of the polarized light of the sun to calculate direction

Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra and Jules Munchin star as three US sailors on shore leave in the screen version of *On the Town*

The Christian Democrats win the first elections in Germany since 1933, and Konrad Adenauer becomes chancellor of West Germany

French author Simone de Beauvoir publishes *The Second Sex*, a widely influential feminist polemic

Bertolt Brecht establishes a new theatrical company, the Berliner Ensemble, in East Germany

Carol Reed directs *The Third Man*, starring Orson Welles and written by Graham Greene

Enid Blyton introduces her most successful character, Noddy, a small boy who can't avoid nodding when he speaks

French anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss publishes *Elementary Structures of Kinship*

British atomic physicist Klaus Fuchs is discovered to be a Soviet agent, passing nuclear secrets to the USSR

The world's first commercial jet airliner, the Comet, designed by de Havilland, goes into service with BOAC (British Overseas Airways Corporation)

Eire is renamed the republic of Ireland and withdraws from the Commonwealth, severing the last link with the British crown

Mao Zedong, standing on the Gate of Heavenly Peace in Beijing, proclaims the new People's Republic of China

Mao Zedong's long-standing ally Zhou Enlai heads both the home and foreign departments of the new republic

The British government declares that northern Ireland will remain British unless the parliament in Stormont decides otherwise

The technique of radiocarbon dating is developed by US chemist Willard Libby

Robert Menzies returns as Australia's prime minister, and remains in the post for an unbroken sixteen years

Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek) sets up a new Republic of China in Taiwan, vowing to recapture the rest of the nation in due course

The Dutch concede independence for Indonesia with Achmed Sukarno as president

Batavia reverts to its original name of Jakarta and becomes the capital of Indonesia

George Orwell publishes *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, a novel set in a terrifying totalitarian state of the future, watched over by Big Brother

May 12 - the Soviet Union lifts the blockade on Berlin and the airlift ends, after providing for nearly a year a lifeline to the city

May 25 - the Federal Republic of Germany is formed from the British, French and US zones of occupation

May 30 - the USSR grants nominal independence to east Germany as the newly established German Democratic Republic

1950

US state department official Alger Hiss is sentenced to a five-year prison sentence, after being convicted of perjury in a second trial

French dramatist Eugène Ionesco's play *The Bald Prima Donna* launches the Theatre of the Absurd

In response to the Soviet atom bomb, President Truman announces a crash programme to develop a hydrogen bomb

A witch hunt begins when Senator Joseph McCarthy says he knows the names of 205 Communists in the US State Department

US evangelist Billy Graham forms the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, to take the Christian message to the world

A prehistoric victim of strangling is found in Tollund Moss in Denmark, with part of the noose still round his neck

The Family Moskat, about a Jewish family in Warsaw, is the first of Isaac Bashevis Singer's books to be published in English

C.S. Lewis gives the first glimpse of Narnia in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

Anton Dolin and Alicia Markova form the Festival Ballet, in time for next year's Festival of Britain

British author Doris Lessing publishes her first novel, *The Grass is Singing*

The Canadian schooner *St Roch* becomes the first ship to travel through the Panama Canal and the Northwest Passage, thus circumnavigating North America

US sociologist David Riesman analyzes the American character in *The Lonely Crowd*

Chinese troops move into Tibet, meeting little resistance

Julius Rosenberg is arrested on suspicion of being a Soviet spy, and his wife Ethel is arrested a few weeks later

North Korean troops cross the 38th parallel to invade the southern half of the region

North Korean forces press far enough south to capture the South Korean capital of Seoul

UN troops are sent to defend South Korea, as the invasion from the north rolls on

Soweto begins to be built outside Johannesburg to segregate the city's black labour force

The British government bans hereditary ruler Seretse Khama from Bechuanaland because he has married a white woman

Kirsten Flagstad sings the posthumous premiere, in London, of Richard Strauss's *Four Last Songs*

The Chilean poet Pablo Neruda publishes his epic account of South America and its people, *Canto general*

UN troops push north across the 38th parallel in a major Korean counter-offensive

Incursions by UN troops far into North Korea give China the pretext to enter the war

The Medical Research Council in Britain produces a report, by Austin Hill and Richard Doll, linking smoking and lung cancer

Le Corbusier begins a 15-year project designing Chandigarh as a new joint capital for Punjab and Haryana

first of five times)

The Twenty-Second Amendment to the US Constitution prevents anyone being elected for more than two presidential terms

Jacopo Arbenz, newly elected president of Guatemala, enrages the USA by expropriating the land of the United Fruit Company

Elia Kazan directs Vivien Leigh and Marlon Brando in the film of Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*

Syntex, a small chemical company in Mexico City, develops the first oral contraceptive

Six European nations agree to joint coal and steel production through the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)

The new Iranian prime minister, Mohammed Mossadegh, passes the Oil Nationalization Act, seizing Britain's assets in the region

German-born US philosopher Hannah Arendt links Hitler's and Stalin's regimes in *The Origins of Totalitarianism*

The British spies Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean escape to the Soviet Union just ahead of their detection and arrest

An agreement is signed by which a joint Tibetan-Chinese authority will nominally govern Tibet

The Festival of Britain, on the south bank of the Thames in London, celebrates the end of wartime austerity

British architects Arnold Powell and John Moya design the Skylon as a central feature for the Festival of Britain

Gertrude Lawrence and Yul Brynner open on Broadway in the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *The King and I*

Catcher in the Rye is US author J.D. Salinger's immensely successful first novel

British architect Basil Spence wins the competition to design a new cathedral for Coventry

UN and Chinese forces reach a stalemate in Korea, facing each other from fixed positions on either side of the 38th Parallel

British author John Wyndham creates a dark fantasy in his novel *The Day of the Triffids*

In *Christ of St John of the Cross* Salvador Dali paints an image of the crucified Christ seeming to fly on his cross

British-Canadian choreographer Celia Franca founds the National Ballet of Canada

The Batllistas, followers in Uruguay of José Batlle, attempt an unusual experiment in the reform of government

A Question of Upbringing begins Anthony Powell's 'A Dance to the Music of Time'

King Abdullah of Jordan is assassinated on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem

US novelist Carson McCullers publishes a collection of stories, *The Ballad of the Sad Café*

John Huston directs Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn in *The African Queen*, based on a C.S. Forester story

The Rake's Progress, with music by Igor Stravinsky and libretto by W.H. Auden and

Chester Kallman, has its premiere in Venice

British art historian Nikolaus Pevsner undertakes a massive task, a county-by-county description of *The Buildings of England*

Japanese film director Kurosawa Akira makes an international reputation with *Rashomon*

Labour loses the general election and Winston Churchill returns to Downing Street as prime minister

The cult of Chairman Mao is officially encouraged in China, partly through steady publication of his works

The first hydrogen bomb is successfully tested by the US at Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Islands

Argentinian driver Juan Manuel Fangio wins the first of five Grand Prix world championship titles

Libya wins independence from Italy, as a kingdom with Idris I as head of state

Henri Matisse completes the Chapel of the Rosary at Vence, with every detail designed by himself

1952

George VI dies and is succeeded by his elder daughter as Elizabeth II

Hans Werner Henze's first full-length opera, *Boulevard Solitude*, has its premiere in Hanover

US boxer Rocky Marciano becomes world heavyweight champion, defeating 'Jersey Joe' Walcott

A decision by the United Nations makes Eritrea an autonomous federal province within

Ethiopia

French economist Jean Monnet becomes the first president of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)

A left-wing coup brings Paz Estenssoro to power and launches a 12-year revolution in Bolivia

US author Ralph Ellison publishes his first novel, *Invisible Man*, a Kafkaesque account of a black immigrant's life in New York

X-ray crystallographer Rosalind Franklin, working at King's College in London, photographs DNA

The UK car manufacturers Morris and Austin merge to become the British Motor Corporation

Gene Kelly dances a famous routine with an umbrella in the film *Singin' in the Rain*

In his first book of *Structures*, for two pianos, Pierre Boulez provides a classic of serial music

Ernest Hemingway publishes *The Old Man and the Sea*, about an epic struggle between an aged Cuban fisherman and a gigantic marlin

Grace Kelly has her first starring role in *High Noon*, with Gary Cooper

Kwame Nkrumah, recently released from gaol, becomes prime minister of the British colony of the Gold Coast

A group of officers led by Gamal Abdel Nasser depose Egypt's king, Farouk, and send him into exile

Albanian missionary Mother Teresa opens the Nirmal Hriday, or Kalighat Home for Dying Destitutes, in Calcutta

Eva Perón dies of cancer and achieves the status of a popular saint in Argentina

Ahmed Ben Bella forms the Front de Libération National (FLN) to fight for Algerian independence

King Adbullah's grandson Hussein (who was with him when he was assassinated in 1951) becomes king of Jordan

British scholar Michael Ventris deciphers Linear B, the script of Mycenae, proving it to be an early form of Greek

Evelyn Waugh publishes *Men at Arms*, the first novel in the *Sword of Honour* trilogy based on his wartime experiences

In his novel *East of Eden* John Steinbeck develops the biblical theme of Cain and Abel in a family saga set in California

US clergyman Norman Vincent Peale has a best-seller in *The Power of Positive Thinking*

Vaughan Williams bases his seventh symphony, *Sinfonia Antartica*, on his score for the film *Scott of the Antarctic*

An outbreak of terrorism in Kenya is orchestrated by a secret Kikuyu organization, the Mau Mau

US composer John Cage's 4'33" consists of precisely that number of minutes and seconds of silence

Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower wins the US presidential election with Richard Nixon as

his vice-president

The Modern Jazz Quartet, led by pianist John Lewis, plays in the sophisticated style that becomes known as 'cool jazz'

Le Corbusier's completes his most massive modernist development, the *Unité d'Habitation* at Marseilles

1953

Samuel Beckett's play *Waiting for Godot* ('En attendant Godot') is first performed in French in Paris

British choreographer Kenneth MacMillan creates his first ballet, *Somnambulism*, to music by Stan Kenton

Saul Bellow publishes *The Adventures of Augie March*, a novel about the experiences of a young Chicago Jew

Joseph Stalin dies, four days after suffering a stroke

Elia Kazan directs Marlon Brando in the film *On the Waterfront*

Fred Zinneman directs Burt Lancaster, Deborah Kerr and Frank Sinatra in *From Here to Eternity*

US architect Louis Kahn makes his reputation with the Yale Art Gallery in New Haven

English author L.P. Hartley sets his novel *The Go-Between* in the summer of 1900

Black American Malcolm Little, who has joined the Nation of Islam while in prison, adopts the surname X to symbolize his rejection of his slave name

Jomo Kenyatta, charged with having organized the Mau Mau uprising in Kenya, is

sentenced to seven years in prison

James Bond, agent 007, has a licence to kill in Ian Fleming's first novel, *Casino Royale*

US microbiologist Jonas Salk announces the discovery of an effective vaccine against polio

Imre Nagy becomes prime minister of Hungary, but is driven out of office two years later by hard-line Communists because of his relative liberalism

Alfred Charles Kinsey completes his study of human sexuality with the publication of *Sexual Behaviour in the Human Female*

New Zealander Edmund Hillary and the Sherpa Tenzing Norgay stand together on the top of Everest

US author James Baldwin publishes his first novel, *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, set in Harlem

English composer William Walton writes *Orb and Sceptre* for the coronation of Elizabeth II

The new queen of the United Kingdom, Elizabeth II, is crowned like all her predecessors since 1066 in Westminster Abbey

US abstract expressionist Willem de Kooning exhibits his series *Women nos I-VI*, on which he has been working since 1938

William Wyler directs Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn in *Roman Holiday*, a beguiling comedy about a princess's romance in Rome

Dmitry Shostakovich's Tenth Symphony has its first performance in Leningrad nine months after the death of Stalin

US citizens Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are sent to the electric chair as convicted spies

South African author Nadine Gordimer publishes her first novel, *The Lying Days*

French composer Olivier Messiaen uses birdsong with piano and orchestra in his *Waking of the Birds*

Anglican vicar Chad Varah, using the crypt of a London church, sets up the first branch of what becomes the Samaritans

French actor Jacques Tati directs and stars in the zany comedy *Mr Hulot's Holiday*

Swedish economist Dag Hammarskjöld becomes secretary-general of the United Nations

US golfer Ben Hogan wins the US Open, the US Masters and the British Open in a single year

Within the year Marilyn Monroe stars in *Niagara*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* and *How to Marry a Millionaire*

The two Rhodesias and Nyasaland are merged in the self-governing Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland

Arthur Miller's play *The Crucible* uses the Salem witch trials as a metaphor for the contemporary paranoia of McCarthyism

An armistice ends the Korean War, leaving several million dead and a country divided either side of a military zone along the 38th parallel

The first Soviet hydrogen bomb is successfully tested at the Semipalatinsk Test Site in Kazakhstan

The Iranian prime minister Mohammed Mossadegh is removed from office in an armed coup sponsored by the CIA and Britain's MI6

Improved methods of testing prove conclusively that Piltdown Man was constructed by Charles Dawson from a human skull and the jaw of an ape

Cambodia wins independence from the colonial power, France

Secret-police chief Lavrenti Beria is executed by the new Soviet regime

Merce Cunningham forms his own company of dancers, initially at Black Mountain College in North Carolina

Molecular biologists Francis Crick and James Watson announce their discovery of the double-helix structure of DNA

1954

Baseball star Joe Dimaggio marries Marilyn Monroe, but the marriage lasts only a year

Dylan Thomas's 'play for voices', *Under Milk Wood*, is broadcast on BBC radio, with Richard Burton as narrator

Senator McCarthy's Communist witch-hunt is broadcast live for several weeks on US television

Japanese film director Kurasawa Akira directs *The Seven Samurai*

J. Robert Oppenheimer, the 'father of the atomic bomb', is investigated for Communist sympathies and his security clearance is withdrawn

The term Domino Theory is coined to reflect President Eisenhower's view of how states might fall to Communism

A painting by Graham Sutherland, commissioned for Winston Churchill's 80th birthday, does not meet with the full approval of the sitter or his wife

Bill Haley & His Comets record *Rock Around the Clock*, providing an early classic of US rock and roll

The German firm NSU builds the first working example of the rotary engine invented in 1924 by Felix Wankel

Hungarian photographer Robert Capa is killed by a land mine in Vietnam

Alfredo Stroessner seizes power in Paraguay, introducing three decades of repressive dictatorship

The Battle of Dien Bien Phu ends with the surrender to the Vietminh of 12,000 French troops

The French abandon Vietnam, leaving the country divided at the seventeenth parallel

Politician and author Winston Churchill completes his six-volume history *The Second World War*

The US Supreme Court rules in *Brown v. Board of Education* that segregation in US schools is illegal

Oxford medical student Roger Bannister runs the first four-minute mile, at the Iffley Road track

George Cukor directs Judy Garland and James Mason in *A Star Is Born*

An invasion of Guatemala from Honduras, with CIA support, brings to power a right-wing

military junta

Anglo-Irish novelist Iris Murdoch publishes her first novel, *Under the Net*

George Grivas leads a guerrilla movement, EOKA, fighting for Cyprus's independence from Britain and union with Greece

19-year-old Françoise Sagan has a major international success with her first novel, *Bonjour Tristesse*

US truck driver Elvis Presley makes his first commercial recordings, for Sun Records in Memphis, Tennessee

US choreographer Paul Taylor begins a long and fruitful collaboration with Robert Rauschenberg as his set designer

In an armistice ending the Indochina War, France acknowledges the independence of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam

18-year-old English jockey Lester Piggott wins the first of a record nine Derbys

Korean evangelist Sun Myung Moon launches the Unification Church, a mission to unify world Christianity

Seventeen-year-old English footballer Bobby Charlton begins a 19-year career playing for Manchester United

The country's president, Getúlio Vargas, commits suicide when the army in Brazil demands his resignation

Federico Fellini directs *La Strada* ('The Road'), starring his wife, Giulietta Masina, and Antony Quinn

Relations are normalized between West Germany and the USA, France and Britain, ending the postwar period of occupation

A radical manifesto and acts of terrorism alert the world to the emergence of the FLN, committed to independence for Algeria

Gamal Abd al-Nasser mounts another coup, this time against his colleague Mohammed Neguib, to make himself president of Egypt

William Walton's opera *Troilus and Cressida* has its premiere at Covent Garden

English author Kingsley Amis's first novel, *Lucky Jim*, strikes an anti-establishment chord

William Golding gives a chilling account of schoolboy savagery in his first novel, *Lord of the Flies*

Hancock's Half Hour, starring Tony Hancock, begins on BBC radio

Nasser escapes an assassination attempt by the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood

Le Corbusier completes the reinforced-concrete pilgrimage church of Notre Dame du Haut at Ronchamp

1955

Michael Tippett's first opera, *A Midsummer Marriage*, has its premiere at Covent Garden

Norodom Sihanouk abdicates as king of Cambodia and becomes the country's prime minister

Swedish director Ingmar Bergman wins international fame with his film *Smiles of a Summer Night*

Elia Kazan directs James Dean in *East of Eden*

Richard Daley begins a powerful and often unscrupulous reign of 22 years as mayor of Chicago

An armed uprising in Morocco persuades France to accept the principle of independence for the colony

81-year-old Winston Churchill resigns as Britain's prime minister and is succeeded by Anthony Eden

Canadian pianist Glenn Gould wins international fame with his recording of Bach's *Goldberg Variations*

Russia forms the Warsaw Treaty Organization (or Warsaw Pact) with her east European allies, as a counterbalance to NATO

Kingsley Amis and other young writers in Britain become known as Angry Young Men

Tennessee Williams' play *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* opens on Broadway

Jazz trumpeter Miles Davis forms his own quintet, extending it in 1958 to a sextet

Graham Greene's novel *The Quiet American* is set in contemporary Vietnam and foresees troubles ahead

Thomas Mann publishes a longer but still incomplete version of his novel *Confessions of Felix Krull, Confidence Man*

Nasser alarms the west by buying eastern-bloc arms through Czechoslovakia

Austria achieves a much delayed return to nationhood after the Soviet Union finally agrees

to withdraw from the country

The first Disneyland opens in California, an event watched on television by 90 million Americans

Konrad Adenauer negotiates the release of the last 10,000 German prisoners of war held in the USSR

James Dean is type-cast as the young lead in *Rebel without a Cause*

English poet Philip Larkin finds his distinctive voice in his collection *The Less Deceived*

British dancer Joan Benesh and her husband Rudolf develop the Benesh system of dance notation

Archaeologists at Olympia excavate the workshop of the Greek classical sculptor Phidias

Indian director Satyajit Ray makes his first film, *Pather Panchali*

A military uprising in Argentina forces Perón to resign and go into exile

With US backing, South Vietnam declares itself an independent republic

Arthur Miller's play *A View from the Bridge* is performed in New York

Baptist pastor Martin Luther King leads the Montgomery Bus Boycott after Rosa Parks is arrested for not giving up her seat to a white man

Edna Everage, created by Australian satirist Barry Humphries, makes her first appearance in a Melbourne revue

British philologist J.R.R. Tolkien publishes the third and final volume of his epic fantasy *The Lord of the Rings*

Ruth Ellis, sentenced to death for the murder of an unfaithful lover, is the last woman to be hanged in Britain

1956

Civil war breaks out in Sudan between the Muslim north and the Christian south

Heartbreak Hotel, Presley's first recording for RCA, goes to the top of all three US charts

The Sudan, declining the opportunity of union with Egypt, opts for independence as a separate state

Brigitte Bardot is directed by her husband Roger Vadim in his first film, *And God Created Woman*

Nikita Khrushchev denounces Stalin, dead now for three years, at a party congress in the USSR

Jerome Robbins creates the ballet *The Concert*, to music by Chopin

The musical *My Fair Lady*, by Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe, opens on Broadway

Tunisia wins independence from France, with Habib Bourguiba as prime minister

French Morocco and Spanish Morocco win independence from the two colonial powers

The English Stage Company, founded by George Devine, opens in London's Royal Court Theatre

The first true synthesizer is put on the market by RCA Victor

English poet Ted Hughes marries US poet Sylvia Plath

The Visit, by Swiss dramatist Friedrich Dürrenmatt, has its premiere in Zürich

After a plebiscite British Togo is merged with the neighbouring colony of the Gold Coast

The husband-and-wife team Charles and Ray Eames design a much copied lounge chair and footstool, made of moulded plywood with padded leather cushions

Anastasio Somoza is assassinated on a visit to Panama, but the dictatorship of Nicaragua remains in his family

Karlheinz Stockhausen's *Song of the Children* combines electronic sounds and the human voice

The Sadler's Wells Ballet, dancing now at Covent Garden, is renamed the Royal Ballet

Russian dancer Galina Ulanova proves a sensation on tour in Europe and the USA in her late forties

The USA and Britain withdraw their offer of financial aid for Nasser's Aswan dam

Egypt's president Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalizes the Suez canal and wins Soviet finance for his Aswan dam

Sicilian author Giuseppe de Lampedusa completes his novel *The Leopard*, but does not live to see it published

Eugene O'Neill's searing account of tensions within his own family, *Long Day's Journey*

into Night, has its premiere in Stockholm

Lawrence Ferlinghetti is prosecuted and acquitted for publishing Allen Ginsberg's *Howl*

Hans Werner Henze's opera *The Stag King* has its premiere in Berlin

John Osborne's play *Look Back in Anger* features in the first season of London's new English Stage Company

Nasser disregards a French and British ultimatum to withdraw from the Suez canal

Students are fired on in Budapest when protesting against repressive Communist policies

Confronted by a popular uprising, Communist leaders in Hungary bring back the reformist prime minister Imre Nagy

Israeli troops invade the Sinai peninsula, a province of Egypt bordering the Suez canal

The British and French bomb Egyptian airfields, and land troops near Port Said and the Suez canal

Russian and Warsaw Pact troops invade Hungary to end the uprising and arrest Imre Nagy

The Kremlin imposes János Kádár on Hungary as head of a new government

Under international pressure Britain and France agree to a humiliating withdrawal from Suez

Melbourne hosts the Olympics, in what becomes known as 'the Friendly Games'

18-year-old Australian sprinter Betty Cuthbert wins three gold medals in the Melbourne Olympics, at 100m, 200m and 400m

Japanese novelist Yukio Mishima publishes *The Temple of the Golden Pavilion*

The MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) is formed as a guerrilla movement to end Portuguese rule

Communist activist Fidel Castro returns from Mexico to Cuba to organize guerrilla warfare against the Batista regime

Dwight D. Eisenhower is elected for a second US presidential term, again with Richard Nixon as his vice-president

The British queen, Elizabeth II, moves the traditional royal Christmas address from radio to TV

The ballet *Spartacus*, with music by Aram Khachaturian, has its premiere in Leningrad

1957

Anthony Eden resigns as UK prime minister after the fiasco of the Suez Crisis, and is succeeded by Harold Macmillan

Danish architect Jørn Utzon wins the competition to design Sydney Opera House

With his Hundred Flowers Campaign ('Let a hundred flowers bloom'), Mao Zedong invites criticism and then locks up the critics

French critic Roland Barthes develops in *Mythologies* the theory of semiotics, relating to signs and symbols

De Valera takes stringent measures against the IRA and Sinn Féin, detaining activists in an internment camp

Kwame Nkrumah leads the Gold Coast into independence under a name of historic resonance, Ghana

US novelist John Cheever publishes *The Wapshot Chronicle*, depicting a wealthy and eccentric family in Massachusetts

Fred Hoyle, William Fowler, and Margaret and Geoffrey Burbidge explain stellar nucleosynthesis

At a conference in Bermuda, Harold Macmillan meets Eisenhower and patches up the 'special relationship' after the rift over Suez

US novelist Mary McCarthy describes the religious pressures she grew up with in *Memories of a Catholic Girlhood*

Australian artist Arthur Boyd begins his series of paintings about an aboriginal stockman, *Love, Marriage and Death of a Half-Caste*

The Hawk in the Rain is English author Ted Hughes' first volume of poems

Six founding nations (Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, West Germany) establish the European Economic Community (EEC)

The FNLA is established, with US support, as a guerrilla group to fight for a non-communist independent Angola

Jack Kerouac publishes a largely autobiographical novel, *On the Road*, describing his experiences travelling through the US and Mexico

Arnold Schoenberg's opera *Moses and Aaron*, incomplete at his death, has its premiere in Zurich

Nikita Khrushchev's position in the Soviet Communist party is secure after the failure of a

plot to remove him

In Voss Australian author Patrick White creates an epic novel about a disastrous attempt to cross the continent

Polish-born British composer Andrzej Panufnik wins an international reputation with his *Sinfonia elegiaco*

The publication of the novel *Justine* launches Lawrence Durrell's *Alexandria Quartet*

Spanish-born Paris designer Cristóbal Balenciaga produces an ostensibly shapeless garment, the 'sack', that greatly excites the world of fashion

In *Syntactic Structures* Noam Chomsky proposes the revolutionary theory that humans inherit an innate universal grammar

John Diefenbaker heads a minority government in Canada, ending twenty-two years of Liberal rule

Barbadian cricketer Gary Sobers, playing in Kingston, Jamaica, against Pakistan, makes a record Test score of 365 not out

David Lean directs William Holden, Alec Guinness and Jack Hawkins in *The Bridge on the River Kwai*

English author John Braine publishes his first novel, *Room at the Top*

US paratroops enforce desegregation in Little Rock, the capital of Arkansas

A country doctor, François Duvalier, is elected president of Haiti on a massive popular vote

English author Stevie Smith publishes her collection of poems *Not Waving but Drowning*

Laurence Olivier brings the music-hall artist Archie Rice vibrantly to life in John Osborne's *The Entertainer*

The USSR launches *Sputnik*, the world's first artificial satellite

The success of the USSR in launching Sputnik prompts the establishment of NASA in the USA

Leonard Bernstein, Jerome Robbins and Stephen Sondheim create the Broadway musical *West Side Story*

Swedish director Ingmar Bergman's film *The Seventh Seal* wins the Jury Prize at Cannes

Christian Dior dies and is followed by Yves St Laurent as head designer at the famous fashion house

German composer Karlheinz Stockhausen uses three separate orchestras to achieve acoustic space in *Gruppen*

Boris Pasternak's only novel, *Doctor Zhivago*, is first published in an Italian translation

Oscar Niemeyer is appointed chief architect for his country's new capital, Brasilia

The Russian spacecraft *Sputnik II* puts into space a living creature, the dog Laika

Latvian-Canadian dancer Ludmilla Chiriaeff founds the Grands Ballets Canadiens in Montreal

Abdul Rahman Putra becomes the first prime minister of independent Malaya

1958

Egypt and Syria merge as the United Arab Republic (but disengage three years later)

Eight members of the Manchester United football team die in an air crash when flying back to England from Belgrade via Munich

The Venezuelan dictator Marcos Jiménez escapes to the USA with an estimated fortune of \$200 million

Lynn Seymour creates the first of many roles for MacMillan, dancing the Adolescent in *The Burrow*

A Commonwealth team, led by Vivian Fuchs, completes the first overland crossing of Antarctica

Irish dramatist Brendan Behan's play *The Hostage* is produced in Dublin

In *The Affluent Society* US economist John Kenneth Galbraith criticizes wasteful modern consumerism

French Algerians seize government buildings in Algiers, in a campaign to ensure that Algerian remains French

Chicken Soup with Barley begins a trilogy by English playwright Arnold Wesker

The Fire Raisers, by Swiss dramatist Max Frisch, is performed in Zürich

Vladimir Nabokov's novel *Lolita* is published in Paris

The national assembly in Paris grants de Gaulle six months of unrestricted power as president – his condition for returning to government

On his second day in power, de Gaulle visits Algiers to confront the settlers with an

unwelcome message

The new hard-line Hungarian government headed by János Kádár tries and executes Imre Nagy

Paul Newman stars in the film version of Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

Yasser Arafat and others in Kuwait found Al-Fatah, a secret organization advocating armed resistance against Israel

The king of Iraq, Faisal II, is murdered in Baghdad in a coup led by Abdul Karim Qassim

John Cranko's version of *Romeo and Juliet*, to Prokofiev's score, is premiered by La Scala Ballet in Venice

Truman Capote publishes a short novel, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, with a bewitching central character, Holly Golightly

Irish writer Brendan Behan's autobiographical *Borstal Boy* is published

Nigerian dramatist Wole Soyinka's play *The Swamp Dwellers* is produced in London

Polish film director Andrzej Wajda makes *Ashes and Diamonds*, starring the Polish actor Zbigniew Cybulski

The baseball teams Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Giants move to California

English author Alan Sillitoe publishes his first novel, *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*

18-year-old British pop singer Cliff Richard has his first hit single with *Move It*

French citizens approve the new constitution proposed by de Gaulle, thus introducing the Fifth Republic

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) is launched in Britain with Bertrand Russell as president

Nationalist Kurds in the north of Iraq launch a guerrilla war against the new government in Baghdad

Harold Pinter's first play in London's West End, *The Birthday Party*, closes in less than a week

The colony of French Guinea opts for immediate independence as the republic of Guinea, breaking its links with France

Mao Zedong imposes on China a Great Leap Forward, an attempt at industrialization that results in economic chaos and widespread famine

Sekou Touré, the first president of Guinea, settles in for twenty-six years of dictatorial rule

The cartoonist Vicky depicts Harold Macmillan as Supermac in London's *Evening Standard*

Hendrik Verwoerd becomes prime minister of South Africa on the death of J.G. Strijdom

Ayub Khan, commander-in-chief of the Pakistani army, replaces Iskander Mirza as president in a bloodless coup

Angelo Roncalli is elected pope and takes the name John XXIII

Mies van der Rohe and Philip Johnson complete a skyscraper for Seagram in New York

Charles de Gaulle is elected first President of France's Fifth Republic

Dictator Fulgencio Batista flees from Cuba, leaving Havana open to Fidel Castro and his victorious guerrillas

1959

Fidel Castro begins more than four decades of authoritarian rule in Cuba

Alaska becomes the 49th state of the USA

Soviet spacecraft *Luna 1* goes into orbit round the sun, between the orbits of Earth and Mars

Pope John XXIII summons a second Vatican Council

Francis Poulenc and Jean Cocteau collaborate on *La Voix Humaine*, a concerto for soprano voice and orchestra

Australian soprano Joan Sutherland becomes a star overnight with her performance at Covent Garden in *Lucia di Lammermoor*

In the Hola camp, in Kenya, eleven Mau Mau prisoners die from their treatment at the hand of British forces

The Dalai Lama escapes from Tibet to India after the Chinese suppression of an armed uprising costing thousands of lives

Alfred Hitchcock directs Cary Grant in *North by Northwest*

German novelist Günter Grass has an immediate success with his first novel, *The Tin Drum*

Liu Shaoqi replaces Mao Zedong as China's president after the Great Leap Forward fiasco,

but Mao remains Chairman

Mary Leakey finds in the Olduvai Gorge the first specimen of a new hominid species, now known as *Australopithecus Boisei*

Vice-president Richard Nixon engages in a 'kitchen debate' with Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev at a US exhibition in Moscow

The Mini is launched, designed by Alec Issigonis, and becomes the best-selling British car of all time

Lee Kuan Yew becomes the first prime minister of the newly independent state of Singapore

Billy Wilder directs Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon in *Some Like it Hot*

Saul Bellow publishes *Henderson the Rain King*, in which an American millionaire acquires a strange role in an African tribe

On the retirement of de Valera, Sean Lemass succeeds him as leader of Fianna F'íl and prime minister of Ireland

The Transkei becomes the first African homeland, or Bantustan, within South Africa

ETA (Euzkadi Ta Askatasuna) is formed in Spain as a guerrilla organization to win Basque independence

The first prototype of the Hovercraft, designed by British engineer Christopher Cockerell, crosses the English Channel

Achmed Sukarno assumes dictatorial powers, operating an Indonesian policy officially known as Guided Democracy

Hiroshima Mon Amour is French director Alain Resnais' first feature film, with screenplay by Marguerite Duras

West Indian poet and playwright Derek Walcott founds the Trinidad Theatre Workshop

Keith Waterhouse has a wide success with his second novel, *Billy Liar*

Hawaii becomes the 50th state of the USA

Soviet spacecraft *Luna 2* successfully strikes the moon, in the Palus Putredinus region

Asterix, written by René Goscinny and drawn by Albert Uderzo, makes his first appearance, in the French magazine *Pilote*

Solomon Bandaranaike is assassinated by a Buddhist monk after only three years as prime minister of Sri Lanka

A group of dancers leave the Netherlands Ballet and establish their own Netherlands Dance Theatre in The Hague

Soviet spacecraft *Luna 3*, passing by the moon at a distance of some 40,000 miles, is able to photograph the far side

The St Lawrence Seaway, a joint Canadian and US project, links the Great Lakes and the sea

US author William Burroughs' *Naked Lunch*, an account of the horrors of a junkie's life, is published in Paris

Harold Pinter's second play in London's West End, *The Caretaker*, immediately brings him an international reputation

Rwanda suffers the first nationwide outbreak of Hutu violence against Tutsis

Australian Grand Prix driver Jack Brabham wins the first of his three Formula One titles

Philip Roth publishes his first book, *Goodbye, Columbus*, a novella and five short stories

British author Laurie Lee remembers a Cotswold boyhood in *Cider with Rosie*

Billy Wright becomes the first football player to win 100 caps for England

William Gibson's play *The Miracle Worker* dramatizes the extraordinary story of Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan

Frank Lloyd Wright's Guggenheim Museum opens in New York after seventeen years of work on the project

1960

UK prime minister Harold Macmillan, in Cape Town, warns the white settlers of Africa that 'the wind of change' is blowing through their continent

French Cameroun becomes independent as the republic of Cameroun, with Ahmadou Ahidjo as the first president

US film director Jules Dassin makes *Never on Sunday*, starring the Greek actress Melina Mercouri

Kenneth Kaunda is elected president of UNIP, a new party fighting for an independent Northern Rhodesia

South African police fire on a crowd in Sharpeville, near Johannesburg, killing more than sixty people

French choreographer Maurice Béjart is the first director of Belgium's new Ballet of the 20th Century

French Togo becomes independent as the republic of Togo, with Sylvanus Olympio as president

A Liverpool group of musicians call themselves Long John & the Silver Beatles – a name soon shortened to something more memorable

Italian film director Michelangelo Antonioni makes *L'Avventura*, with Monica Vitti in the leading role

Guatemala is terrorized by government-linked death squads and emergent guerrilla groups

Soviet forces shoot down a US high-altitude U-2 spy plane and capture the pilot, Gary Powers

EFTA (European Free Trade Association) brings together the European nations outside the EEC

Cyprus becomes an independent nation, free of British colonial rule, with Archbishop Makarios as president

Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann, discovered in Buenos Aires, is kidnapped by Israeli agents

US jazz saxophonist John Coltrane forms his own 'hard bop' group

20-year-old Spanish tenor Plácido Domingo sings his first major role, as Alfredo in *La Traviata* in the Mexican city of Monterrey

The Colossus is US author Sylvia Plath's first collection of poems

Italian film director Federico Fellini makes *La Dolce Vita*, an episodic study of life along the Via Veneto in Rome

The Brazilian government moves to Brasilia, into public buildings designed by Oscar Niemeyer

French Sudan becomes independent as the republic of Mali, with Modibo Keita as president

Madagascar becomes independent (under the name Malagasy republic from till 1975), with Philibert Tsiranana as president

The Quiet Revolution in Quebec begins with the election of Jean Lesage and the Liberals

Flower, Fist and Bestial Wail is the first of many collections of poems by US poet Charles Bukowski

The birth control pill wins FDA approval in the US and goes on sale

English poet John Betjeman publishes his long autobiographical poem *Summoned by Bells*

Irish author Edna O'Brien publishes her first novel, *The Country Girls*

Jean-Luc Godard directs his first feature film, *A Bout de Souffle* ('Breathless'), a classic of French New Wave cinema

Patrice Lumumba becomes prime minister of the newly independent Democratic Republic of the Congo, previously the Belgian Congo

The South West Africa People's Organization is founded to fight against South African control of Namibia

British and Italian colonies merge as the independent Somali republic, also known as Somalia, with Aden Abdullah Osman as president

Moise Tshombe, taking advantage of chaos in the Congo, declares the independence of Katanga

US author Harper Lee publishes her first and only novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Anti-European riots in the Congo cause some 25,000 Belgians to flee the country

Sirimavo Bandaranaike, widow of the assassinated Solomon Bandaranaike, begins the first of three long spells as prime minister of Sri Lanka

Nelson Mandela leads a new armed section of the ANC (African National Congress), formed in response to Sharpeville

The French colony of Dahomey (known from 1975 as Benin) becomes independent but suffers six military coups in its first twelve years

Niger becomes independent, with Hamani Diori as the new nation's first president

Kenyatta, still in prison, is elected leader of KANU, a new political party in Kenya

The French colony of Upper Volta becomes independent as Burkina Faso, with Maurice Yaméogo as president

The pamphlet *Control or Colour Bar?* demands reform of White Australia policy

Félix Houphouët-Boigny, first president of the newly independent Ivory Coast, begins thirty-three years of relatively peaceful rule

Alfred Hitchcock directs Janet Leigh and Anthony Perkins in *Psycho*

The English revue *Beyond the Fringe* has its premiere at the Edinburgh Festival

The French colony of Chad becomes independent with François Tombalbaye as president

Neo-Pentecostalism, also known as Charismatic Renewal, becomes an important element within many Christian denominations

US novelist John Barth publishes *The Sot-Weed Factor*, a picaresque life of Edmund Cook set on a family tobacco plantation in Maryland

The French colony of Gabon becomes independent with Léon M'ba as president

The French colony of Ubangi-Shari becomes independent and takes the name Central African Republic

The French Congo becomes independent as the republic of Congo, with Fulbert Youlou as president

Mobutu Sese Seko takes power in a military coup in the midst of chaos in the Congo

Paul Scofield plays Thomas More in Robert Bolt's *A Man for All Seasons*

The French colony of Senegal becomes independent, with Léopold Senghor as the new nation's first president

Nigeria wins independence, with Abubakar Tafawa Balewa as prime minister, but its stability is threatened by tribal and regional factions

Patrice Lumumba, the dismissed prime minister of the Congo, is arrested on the orders of the army chief of staff, Mobutu Sese Seko

British artist Anthony Caro begins welding and painting abstract metal sculpture

The French colony of Mauritania becomes independent, with Moktar Ould Daddah as president

US author John Updike begins to chart the fictional progress of Harry Angstrom, known as Rabbit, in *Rabbit, Run*

Keith Holyoake begins twelve unbroken years as New Zealand's prime minister

Albert Luthuli, president of the ANC in South Africa, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

Democrat candidate John F. Kennedy defeats Republican Richard Nixon in the US presidential election

The Vietcong, or NLF, is formed as a guerrilla force to liberate South Vietnam from the US-backed government

Penguin Books are prosecuted for obscenity for publishing D.H. Lawrence's novel *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, and are acquitted

British artist Bridget Riley creates patterns that produce unexpected optical effects, in a style that becomes known as op art

1961

President Kennedy appoints his younger brother Robert to the position of US attorney-general

Patrice Lumumba is sent to Katanga, where he is murdered

Political activist Jane Jacobs publishes an influential polemic, *The Death and Life of Great*

American Cities

Hassan II begins a 38-year reign as the king of Morocco

President Kennedy establishes the Peace Corps, enabling US volunteers to work abroad

Atmosphères, by the Hungarian composer György Ligeti, achieves a mysterious blend of sound in what he calls 'micropolyphony'

J.D. Salinger publishes *Franny and Zooey*, the second of his collections of stories about the Glass family

The trial of Adolf Eichmann begins in an Israeli court in Jerusalem, with TV cameras permitted to broadcast the event live around the world

Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human to travel in space, orbiting the earth once in *Vostok 1*

Former British colony Sierra Leone becomes an independent state within the Commonwealth

British author Roald Dahl publishes a novel for children, *James and the Giant Peach*

An invasion force of about 1500 Cuban exiles comes ashore in Cuba's Bay of Pigs in an attempt to topple the Castro regime

Two days after landing in the Bay of Pigs, 114 Cuban exiles are dead and about 1300 have been captured

Joshua Nkomo founds ZAPU, the Zimbabwe African People's Union, in the British colony of Southern Rhodesia

Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti makes his operatic debut in Reggio Emilia, as Rodolfo in *La Bohème*

US astronaut Alan Shepard becomes the first American in space, with a suborbital flight in *Freedom 7*

Arthur Miller writes the screenplay for *The Misfits* for his wife, Marilyn Monroe

Caribbean novelist V.S. Naipaul features his Trinidad family in *A House for Mr Biswas*

Two French generals, Raoul Salan and Edmond Jouhaud, form the OAS (*Organisation de l'Armée Secrète*) to preserve French rule in Algeria

Rafael Trujillo, dictator of the Dominican Republic for the past 30 years, is killed by a machine-gun attack on his car

Commonwealth opposition to apartheid causes South Africa to leave the organization and become a republic

US author Joseph Heller publishes his first novel, *Catch-22*, set in the last months of World War II

British choreographer John Cranko becomes director of the Stuttgart Ballet

The drug Thalidomide, synthesized in West Germany, is shown to have been the cause of severe defects in about 12,000 children born in 46 countries

Russian dancer Rudolf Nureyev defects from the Kirov company at Le Bourget airport and seeks political asylum in France

Syria withdraws from the United Arab Republic (UAR) seeing it as unacceptably dominated by Egypt

President Kennedy commits the US to placing a man on the moon and bringing him back safely by 1970

The novelist Ernest Hemingway kills himself with a shotgun in his log cabin in Idaho

Nelson Mandela and the ANC adopt guerrilla tactics against the apartheid regime in South Africa

In *Babi Yar* the dissident Soviet poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko tackles the subject of Russian anti-Semitism

Polish composer Witold Lutoslawski uses 'aleatory counterpoint' in his *Venetian Games*

Britain formally tables an application to join the European Economic Community

The East German government erects the Berlin Wall to prevent an exodus of its citizens

French film director François Truffaut makes *Jules et Jim*, starring Jeanne Moreau and Oskar Werner

The UN secretary general, Dag Hammarskjöld, dies in a plane crash while trying to secure peace in Katanga

Largely under the influence of Tito, a summit is held by nations eager to be non-aligned in the Cold War

The southern part of the British Cameroons votes to merge with Cameroun, becoming the federal republic of Cameroon

Rudolf Nureyev makes his first appearance in a western company, dancing in *The Sleeping Beauty* for the Marquis de Cuevas

Tanganyika becomes an independent nation with Julius Nyerere as prime minister

British novelist Muriel Spark publishes *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, set in an Edinburgh school in the 1930s

1962

Sean Connery creates on screen the role of 007 in the first James Bond film, *Dr No*

Andy Warhol creates a stir when his paintings of Campbell's soup cans are exhibited at the Ferus Gallery in Los Angeles

General Ne Win seizes power in a coup in Burma and establishes a single-party isolationist dictatorship

Frelimo emerges as a Marxist guerrilla group dedicated to winning independence for Mozambique

US singer Bob Dylan writes one of his best-known songs, *Blowin' in the Wind* (included in his 1963 album *The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan*)

James Baldwin's third novel *Another Country* explores the conflicts in the life of a young unemployed black musician

Sam Walton opens the first Wal-Mart Discount store, in Rogers, Arkansas

President de Gaulle makes a surprise appointment, selecting the little-known Georges Pompidou to be the French premier

The Rolling Stones, led by Mick Jagger, give their first performance as a group, in London's Marquee Club

US choreographer Glen Tetley creates a ballet to the music of Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*

General Ne Win seizes power in Burma, beginning decades of brutal military rule

Coventry's new cathedral is inaugurated, enhanced by a wide range of work by leading British artists

A great tapestry by Graham Sutherland hangs above the altar in the newly consecrated Coventry cathedral

John Ashbery's radical collection *The Tennis Court Oath* includes poems composed of sliced up fragments

Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*, setting poems by Wilfred Owen, is first performed in the rebuilt Coventry Cathedral

The Eritrean parliament votes to merge fully with Ethiopia, ending Eritrean autonomy

Adolf Eichmann, convicted in Israel for his role in the Holocaust, is hanged in Tel Aviv

The Reivers, the last of William Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha novels, is published just a month before his death

British author Doris Lessing publishes an influential feminist novel, *The Golden Notebook*

In a series of informal meetings, Harold Macmillan tries to persuade Charles de Gaulle that Britain should join the EEC

Students for a Democratic Society publish in Michigan *The Port Huron Statement*, a seminal text of the New Left

Bette Davis and Joan Crawford star in *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane*

British dancer Peggy van Praagh is appointed the first director of the newly formed Australian Ballet

Ian Smith's white supremacist party, the Rhodesian Front, wins power in Rhodesia's election

A peaceful demonstration at Rangoon university is dispersed by gunfire, resulting in the death of dozens of students

A massive yes vote in a referendum is immediately followed by French recognition of Algerian independence

US golfer Jack Nicklaus turns professional and in the same year wins the first of four US Open titles

Harold Macmillan dismisses a third of his cabinet, including his chancellor, in what becomes known as 'the night of the long knives'

Foreign visits to Burma are restricted to three days (extended in the next decade to one week)

Marilyn Monroe dies in Los Angeles from an overdose of sleeping pills

The veteran left-wing politician Victor Haya is elected president of Peru but is thwarted by a coup led by General Ricardo Godoy

David Lean directs Peter O'Toole in the title role of the film *Lawrence of Arabia*

Ruhollah Khomeini, a leading ayatollah in Qom, denounces the Shah of Iran and declares a *fatwa* against his regime

17-year-old English cellist Jacqueline du Pré creates a stir playing Elgar's concerto in the

Royal Festival Hall

Khrushchev permits publication of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's first book, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, in the literary journal *Novy Mir*

The Trans-Canada Highway is completed, stretching some 5000 miles across the continent

The Sandinistas emerge as a guerrilla group in opposition to the Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua

The former British colony of Uganda becomes an independent republic, with Milton Obote as prime minister

The Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican begins, 94 years after the start of the First Vatican Council under Pius IX

US intelligence reveals nuclear missile bases under construction in Cuba, causing an international crisis

President Kennedy sends the US navy to prevent delivery of Soviet missiles to Cuba

British author P.D. James's first novel, *Cover Her Face*, introduces her poet detective Adam Dalgleish

US dramatist Edward Albee's play *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* opens on Broadway

A deal between President Kennedy and Soviet premier Khrushchev defuses the Cuban missile crisis

Finnish-born US architect Eero Saarinen completes his TWA terminal for New York's Kennedy airport

In *Pale Fire* Vladimir Nabokov tells his story through an editor's annotations to a poem

British Grand Prix driver Graham Hill wins the first of two world championship titles

China prevails in a five-week war with India over disputed boundaries

Fidel Castro releases, for \$53 million in food and medicine, the Cuban exiles taken prisoner in the Bay of Pigs fiasco

Dmitry Shostakovich's Thirteenth Symphony sets poems from Yevtushenko's *Babi Yar*

In *The Gutenberg Galaxy* Canadian author Marshall McLuhan develops the concept of the 'global village'

Anthony Burgess publishes *A Clockwork Orange*, a novel depicting a disturbing and violent near-future

British surgeon John Charnley pioneers the technique of joint replacement, giving a patient a new hip in a small hospital in Wrightington

1963

US poet Sylvia Plath publishes under a pseudonym her only novel, *The Bell Jar*

French president Charles de Gaulle vetoes Britain's application to join the European Economic Community

A military coup in Syria brings the Ba'th party to power

US poet Sylvia Plath commits suicide in London

Moise Tshombe's rebel regime in Katanga crumbles, and he flees to Spain

English author John Le Carré publishes a Cold-War thriller *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*

British choreographer Frederick Ashton creates *Marguerite and Armand* for Margot Fonteyn and her new partner, Rudolf Nureyev

Gideon v. Wainwright establishes that every defendant in a US court has the right to be represented by a lawyer

Mary McCarthy's novel *The Group* follows the subsequent adventures of eight fellow graduates from Vassar

A scandal involving the minister of war, John Profumo, damages the Macmillan government in Britain

Liberal leader Lester Pearson begins five years at the head of minority governments in Canada

US environmentalist Rachel Carson publishes *Silent Spring*, an impassioned warning of ecological disaster

Pope John XXIII dies, only a few month's after the start of the great Vatican council that he has summoned

John Profumo resigns from his cabinet position after admitting that he had lied to the House of Commons about his relationship with Christine Keeler

Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova becomes the first woman in space, flying solo in *Vostok 6*

Young British architects Norman Foster and Richard Rogers work together as Team 4

The OAU (Organization of African Unity) is founded in Addis Ababa to give Africa a united

voice in world affairs

US author and illustrator Maurice Sendak publishes a fantasy for young children, *Where the Wild Things Are*

Italian cardinal Giovanni Montini is elected pope and takes the name Paul VI

British diplomat Kim Philby defects to the USSR and is discovered to have been a Soviet spy

Ayatollah Khomeini is arrested in Qom, and imprisoned for eight months in Tehran, after instigating riots against the Shah

President Kennedy, in divided Berlin, makes the dramatic declaration: *Ich bin ein Berliner* ('I am a Berliner')

Terence O'Neill succeeds Basil Brooke (Lord Brookeborough) as Northern Ireland's prime minister

Saloth Sar, changing his name to Pol Pot, begins to build up the Cambodian Communist party and Khmer Rouge

English author Margaret Drabble publishes her first novel, *A Summer Birdcage*

The Partial Test Ban Treaty, signed by the USA, USSR and UK, is the first of many international attempts to limit the threat of nuclear war

Robert Mugabe and Ndabaningi Sithole split from ZAPU to found ZANU, the Zimbabwe African National Union

In *The Feminine Mystique* US feminist Betty Friedan challenges the stereotypical view of woman's role

Ninette de Valois, founder of the Royal Ballet, retires after building the company to international stature

Bob Marley and five others form a band, the Wailers, that will for the first time give Jamaican music a global following

A massive civil rights march in Washington 'for Jobs and Freedom' wins the support of President Kennedy

'I have a dream' says Martin Luther King to 200,000 civil rights demonstrators in Washington

Australian tennis players Margaret Court and Ken Fletcher achieve the grand slam in mixed doubles

Malaysia, Singapore, Sarawak and Sabah form the Federation of Malaysia

Sexual intercourse begins in this year, according to Philip Larkin's 1974 poem *Annus Mirabilis*

Andy Warhol moves into films with *Sleep*, showing a man asleep for six hours

Konrad Adenauer resigns after 14 years as Chancellor of West Germany and is succeeded by his economics minister, Ludwig Erhard

Macmillan resigns on grounds of ill health and is succeeded by Alec Douglas-Home as UK premier

Scottish Grand Prix driver Jim Clark wins the first of his two Formula One titles

The Tupamaros are formed as an urban guerrilla group in Uruguay

President Kennedy is shot in a motorcade driving through downtown Dallas, in Texas

On the death of John F. Kennedy, Vice-president Lyndon Johnson succeeds him as president of the USA

Chief suspect Lee Harvey Oswald is shot by night-club owner Jack Ruby just two days after the assassination of President Kennedy

An invasion of Rwanda by Tutsi guerrillas prompts the first major Hutu massacre of Tutsis

Zanzibar becomes an independent nation and a member of the Commonwealth

Kenya becomes independent, with Jomo Kenyatta as prime minister

The Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland is dissolved, as the three colonies go their separate ways

1964

Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras meet in Jerusalem, in the first such meeting since 1438

British film stars Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor marry

Anthony Dowell and Antoinette Sibley begin a famous partnership in Ashton's *The Dream*

Senior officers in Brazil seize power, alleging the threat of an imminent communist takeover

Ian Smith, now prime minister of Rhodesia, arrests leading black politicians Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe

Tanganyika and Zanzibar merge as the United Republic of Tanzania

Cassius Clay (later Muhammad Ali) becomes world heavyweight champion for the first time, defeating Sonny Liston

Louis Leakey and his team discover in the Olduvai Gorge the first known specimen of the species *Homo Habilis*, named for its supposed tool-making abilities

Roald Dahl publishes a fantasy treat for a starving child, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

US physicists Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson discover cosmic background radiation, lending strong support to the Big Bang theory

US poet John Berryman's *77 Dream Songs* introduce Henry, his alter ego

Papa Doc Duvalier, ruling through the brutal Tontons Macoutes, makes himself president of Haiti for life

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is founded at a congress in East Jerusalem, then part of Jordan

Robert Lowell's *For the Union Dead* takes its title from the last poem, about modern disregard for a Civil War monument

Sergio Leone directs *A Fistful of Dollars*, the first of his three 'spaghetti westerns' starring Clint Eastwood

Nelson Mandela is sentenced to life imprisonment and is sent to a gaol on Robben Island

In a match at the Oval, England cricketer Freddie Trueman becomes the first bowler to take 300 Test wickets

Fiddler on the Roof, based on a novel by Sholom Aleichem, opens on Broadway with Zero Mostel playing Tevye the Milkman

President Johnson pushes through a Civil Rights Act against strong Senate opposition

English author A.S. Byatt publishes her first novel, *Shadow of a Sun*

The Beijing ballet company goes political with *The Red Detachment of Women*, supervised by Mao Zedong's wife, Jiang Qing

Hastings Banda is prime minister of the newly independent nation of Malawi, formerly Nyasaland

A reported incident in the Gulf of Tonkin triggers US intervention against North Vietnam, in a significant step towards the Vietnam War

Two men are hanged in Britain, in the last use of capital punishment before its abolition in 1965

The Beatles reach number one in both the UK and the US with their single 'Can't Buy Me Love'

Peter Sellers plays three different roles in Stanley Kubrick's film *Dr Strangelove, or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*

New Zealand poet Fleur Adcock publishes her first collection, *The Eye of the Hurricane*

US author Joyce Carol Oates publishes her first novel, *With Shuddering Fall*

US author Saul Bellow publishes *Herzog*, a novel featuring a professor of history who is a compulsive sender of messages

Martin Luther King wins the Nobel Peace Prize for leading non-violent resistance to racial discrimination in the USA

Nikita Khrushchev is forced from office as Soviet leader by a conservative faction that includes Leonid Brezhnev

The USSR enters a brief period of coalition leadership by Alexei Kosygin as prime minister and Leonid Brezhnev as Party First Secretary

Harold Wilson becomes prime minister after Labour narrowly wins the UK general election

Kenneth Kaunda becomes president of the independent republic of Zambia, previously Northern Rhodesia

Ayatollah Khomeini, exiled by the shah from Iran, moves first to Turkey and then makes his base in Iraq

The Second Vatican Council issues a decree recognizing the legitimacy and apostolic origins of many of the beliefs and practices of the Greek Orthodox church

Lyndon B. Johnson is elected US president in his own right, winning decisively against Republican Barry Goldwater

The Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, linking Brooklyn and Staten Island, is the world's longest suspension bridge with a main span of 4260 feet (1298m)

A military junta seizes power in Bolivia, ending the 12-year left-wing regime of Paz Estenssoro

Canadian author Marshall McLuhan declares, in *Understanding Media*, that 'the medium is the message'

The immediate introduction of comprehensive schools in Britain, in place of grammar

schools, is Labour party policy

Surgeons Michael Bakey in the USA and Vasilii Kolesov in the USSR pioneer coronary bypass surgery, using the patient's mammary artery

1965

A royal proclamation formally establishes the new national flag of Canada

US President Lyndon Johnson launches a regular bombing campaign against North Vietnam

Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev dance together in the premiere of Kenneth MacMillan's *Romeo and Juliet*

Winston Churchill dies, and lies in state in London's ancient Westminster Hall

David Lean directs Omar Sharif and Julie Christie in a film of Pasternak's *Dr Zhivago*

The General Assembly of the UN asks Argentina and Britain to enter negotiations on their long-running dispute over the Falklands

The Gambia becomes an independent member of the Commonwealth, with Dawda Jawara as prime minister

Black activist and convert to Islam Malcolm X is assassinated when giving a speech in the Audubon Ballroom in New York

George Grant publishes an influential political tract, *Lament for a Nation: The Defeat of Canadian Nationalism*

The Vietnam War enters a new dimension with the deployment of US ground troops in the country

Soviet cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov is the first to walk in space, moving round outside

the *Voshkod 2* spacecraft for more than ten minutes

The first communications satellite, *Early Bird*, is launched from Cape Canaveral

Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras preside over simultaneous ceremonies, in Rome and Istanbul, revoking the mutual excommunications of 1054

US marines intervene in civil war in the Dominican Republic to prevent a communist takeover

Woody Allen makes his screen debut with *What's New Pussycat?*

Neil Simon's play *The Odd Couple* is produced in New York

Australia sends a first contingent of 1500 troops to fight in Vietnam

Ralph Nader begins a long career in consumer protection with *Unsafe at Any Speed*, attacking the US automobile industry

18-year-old Dutch footballer Johann Cruyff joins Ajax, the club with which he will be associated in numerous successes

18-year-old Austrian body-builder Arnold Schwarzenegger becomes Junior Mr Europe (on his way to Mr World and Mr Universe)

Singapore leaves the Federation of Malaysia to become again an independent state

Defence minister Houari Boumédiène leads a coup to oust President Ben Bella in Algeria

Ferdinand Marcos wins a landslide victory in the Philippines presidential election

Student demonstrations against Ne Win's rule become regular occurrences, suppressed with military violence

Terence O'Neill and Séan Lemass, prime ministers of Northern Ireland and Ireland, have two unprecedented meetings

Maria Callas gives her last performance, as Tosca at Covent Garden in London

An exhibition in New York, 'The Responsive Eye', puts op art on the map

President Johnson introduces affirmative action as a legislative policy to redress social inequalities

Zahir Shah allows the first elections in his kingdom of Afghanistan

US choreographer Robert Joffrey founds a new company that becomes known (from 1977) as the Joffrey Ballet

US author Randall Jarrell's poem *The Lost World* provides the title for his last published book

Stanley Matthews plays his last game for Stoke City after 34 years as a professional football player

Riots break out in the Watts area of Los Angeles

After a summer of border skirmishes in Pakistan, an Indian advance towards Lahore initiates full-scale war between the two countries

A UN-sponsored cease-fire brings the second Indo-Pakistan war to an end after less than three weeks

Karaoke (abbreviated from the Japanese for 'empty orchestra') evolves in Japan

Based on interviews given to Alex Haley in 1964, a life of Malcolm X is published soon after his assassination

Mobutu stages his second coup in the Congo and this time takes power as president

Footballer Franz Beckenbauer plays his first international for West Germany

Ian Smith makes a unilateral declaration of Rhodesia's independence

German performance artist Joseph Beuys walks round a gallery demonstrating *How to Explain Pictures to a Dead Hare*

The Second Vatican Council ends, having made some radical changes in the ritual and attitudes of the Roman Catholic church

1966

Nehru's daughter, Indira Gandhi, becomes India's prime minister as leader of the Congress party

Robert Menzies retires as Australian prime minister and is succeeded by Harold Holt

The Soviet spacecraft *Luna 9* is the first to achieve a soft-landing on the moon and to send back photographic data from the surface

Kwame Nkrumah, the founding father of Ghana, is toppled in a coup while away on a state visit to China

Jean-Bedel Bokassa takes power in a coup in the Central African Republic

Scientists at the US Geological Survey develop the theory of plate tectonics as the

explanation of continental drift

Real-life husband and wife Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor star as the married couple in the film of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

Austrian author Peter Handke provokes interest with his first play *Offending the Audience*

The Soviet spacecraft *Luna 10* orbits the moon and broadcasts the Internationale to the 23rd Congress of the Communist Party

Suharto forces the Indonesian president, Achmed Sukarno, to hand over to him all executive powers

Joaquin Balaguer, a close associate of Trujillo, is elected president of the Dominican Republic

British actor Michael Caine makes his name starring in two outstanding films within the year, *Alfie* and *The Ipcress File*

English novelist Paul Scott publishes *The Jewel in the Crown*, the first volume in his 'Raj Quartet'

Leonid Brezhnev, taking the title General Secretary (last used by Stalin), makes it plain that he is the Soviet leader

NATO headquarters moves to Brussels after de Gaulle expels all NATO personnel from French soil

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, leader of the Awami League, demands full autonomy for East Pakistan (Bangladesh)

Plaid Cymru sends its first MP to Westminster when Gwynfor Evans wins a Carmarthen by-election

Irish poet Seamus Heaney wins critical acclaim for *Death of a Naturalist*, his first volume containing more than a few poems

Communist leaders Liu Shaoqi and Deng Xiaoping are attacked in China's Cultural Revolution as the biggest and worst 'capitalist roaders'

British fashion designer Mary Quant launches the miniskirt

The US tennis player Billie Jean King wins the first of six Wimbledon singles titles

After a long period of obscurity, *Wide Sargasso Sea* brings novelist Jean Rhys back into the literary limelight

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, by Tom Stoppard, is produced at the Edinburgh Festival

UNITA, led by Jonas Savimbi, joins the fight for Angolan independence

Construction work begins on the twin towers for the World Trade Center in New York, designed by US architect Minoru Yamasaki

Alf Ramsey (manager) and Bobby Moore (captain) lead the England football team to victory in the World Cup

Mao Zedong unleashes China's teenagers as violent Red Guards to spearhead his Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution

Prime minister Hendrik Verwoerd is stabbed to death in the South African parliament

Gurindji people at the Wave Hill station walk out in protest, launching the Aboriginal land rights movement in Australia

The Whale, a cantata by English composer John Tavener, has its premiere at the inaugural concert of the London Sinfonietta

The Black Panther Party is founded in Oakland, California, to launch a more aggressive campaign for civil rights

Quotations from Chairman Mao Zedong, better known as the 'Little Red Book', is the constant companion of every Red Guard

116 children die when a sliding slag heap buries a primary school in the Welsh village of Aberfan

US author Susan Sontag publishes her first collection of essays, *Against Interpretation*

Former chief Seretse Khama becomes the first president of an independent Botswana

Che Guevara arrives in Bolivia in the hope of fomenting a left-wing revolution

1967

Mike Nichols directs Anne Bancroft and Dustin Hoffman in the film *The Graduate*

Flann O'Brien's novel *The Third Policeman* has a great success when published posthumously

US poet Anne Sexton publishes *Live or Die*, a collection containing a poem to her dead friend Sylvia Plath

A coup in Greece brings in an incompetent and repressive military junta that becomes known as the 'Greek colonels'

Luis Buñuel directs Catherine Deneuve in *Belle de Jour*, a film about a bored housewife who takes a day job as a prostitute

A Bigger Splash, by English painter David Hockney, casts a new light on sunlit swimming pools

The Ibo of eastern Nigeria claim independence for their region – as the republic of Biafra

Canada mounts the world exhibition Expo 67 as the centrepiece of its centennial celebrations

The US pavilion at Expo 67 in Montreal is a geodesic dome by the architect Buckminster Fuller

English yachtsman Francis Chichester completes a record round-the-world voyage, sailing 29,600 miles solo in 226 days

Colombian novelist Gabriel García Márquez publishes a classic of magic realism, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*

A pre-emptive air strike by Israel destroys almost all Egypt's aircraft and launches the Six-Day War

Israel captures the Gaza Strip and Sinai peninsula from Egypt

Israel captures East Jerusalem and the West Bank from Jordan

Israel captures the Golan Heights from Syria in the Six-Day War

British research student Jocelyn Bell and her Cambridge supervisor Antony Hewish identify the first known pulsar

Thurgood Marshall, appointed by President Johnson, becomes the first African American member of the US Supreme Court

Pope Paul VI visits the Patriarch Athenagoras in Istanbul, shocking some Catholics that this visit has preceded one by the Patriarch to Rome

President de Gaulle, visiting Montreal for Expo 67, proclaims *Vive le Quebec libre*('Long Live Free Quebec')

British composers Harrison Birtwistle and Peter Maxwell Davies found the Pierrot Players

Congress passes a Freedom of Information Act, giving the public an important new right in the USA

Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara is captured and executed in Bolivia

Faye Dunaway and Warren Beatty star in the film *Bonnie and Clyde*

English author Angela Carter wins recognition with her quirky second novel, *The Magic Toyshop*

English playwright Alan Ayckbourn has his first success with *Relatively Speaking*

Three young Liverpool poets publish a shared anthology under the title *The Mersey Sound*

Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras issue a joint declaration, emphasizing mutual respect for each other's traditions

A Day in the Death of Joe Egg, by English dramatist Peter Nichols, has its premiere in London

US author William Styron's novel *The Confessions of Nat Turner* describes a historical slave revolt in 1831

English cellist Jacqueline du Pré marries Israeli pianist Daniel Barenboim

Nicolae Ceaușescu becomes president of the State Council of Romania

South African surgeon Christiaan Barnard, in Cape Town, transplants the heart of a young woman into a 55-year-old grocer, Louis Washkansky

The Beatles release an immensely successful album, *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, with a cover by British pop-artist Peter Blake

Australian prime minister Harold Holt swims in heavy surf near Portsea, south of Melbourne, and is never seen again

1968

Alexander Dubcek becomes first secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist party, following pressure for reform from party intellectuals

The Vietcong launch widespread attacks on South Vietnamese cities during the Tet (lunar new year) holiday

Lyndon Johnson announces that he will not stand for re-election as US president

New Czech leader Alexander Dubcek facilitates the Prague Spring, aiming in his words to provide 'socialism with a human face'

British actor Richard Attenborough makes his first film as a director, *Oh! What a Lovely War*

Spanish Guinea becomes an independent republic as Equatorial Guinea, with Francisco Macias Nguema as president

US soldiers massacre hundreds of unarmed civilians in the Vietnamese village of My Lai

Robert Kennedy enters the race for the Democratic presidential nomination

Ezra Pound publishes his last collection of cantos, *Drafts and Fragments of Cantos CX - CXVII*

Karlheinz Stockhausen's *Stimmung* ('Tuning') employs six unaccompanied voices for 75 minutes

US civil rights leader Martin Luther King is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, by escaped convict James Earl Ray

British racing driver Jim Clark is killed in an accident on the Hockenheim circuit, while leading in the world championship

AIM (American Indian Movement) is founded to improve the status of native Americans, or American Indians

Pierre Trudeau begins sixteen almost unbroken years as Liberal leader and prime minister of Canada

The United Nations, with the approval of Britain as the colonial power, imposes economic sanctions on Rhodesia

US artist Sol LeWitt buries a metal cube in the Netherlands to create *Box in a Hole*

Peter Nzube finds the oldest skull yet discovered in the Olduvai Gorge and names the specimen Twiggy, after the British fashion model of the time

A student revolt begins in Paris and sweeps through France, shaking de Gaulle's government

The Parti Québécois is formed in Canada by René Lévesque

Robert Kennedy is assassinated by Sirhan Sirhan, a Palestinian, in the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles

Norman Mailer publishes *The Armies of the Night*, based on his experiences on an anti-Vietnam demonstration in Washington in October 1967

English biographer Michael Holroyd completes his two-volume life of Lytton Strachey

Pope Paul VI issues the encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, condemning all methods of artificial birth control

Raden Suharto is elected president, formalizing his already de facto succession to Sukarno as the Indonesian dictator

A military coup in Iraq brings to power a government composed mainly of Ba'thists

Barbara Streisand repeats her Broadway performance in the film of *Funny Girl*

US athlete Bob Beamon sets a world long-jump record of 8.9 metres that will stand for 23 years

Catholic bishops in Latin America, plagued by oppressive regimes, develop the concept of liberation theology

Gore Vidal publishes *Myra Breckenridge*, featuring a lively transsexual as the central character

Antonio de Salazar, the Portuguese dictator, suffers a stroke and is replaced by Marcelo Caetano

Alexander Solzhenitsyn's novel *Cancer Ward* is smuggled to New York for publication

Stanley Kubrick and Arthur C. Clarke create the film *2001: A Space Odyssey*, based on Clarke's 1951 short story *The Sentinel*

Soviet and Warsaw Pact troops invade Czechoslovakia to end the Prague Spring

Reformist Czech leader Alexander Dubcek is arrested and flown to Moscow

The first civil rights march in northern Ireland, in Derry, is halted by the police with batons and water cannon

Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis marries Jacqueline Kennedy, widow of the assassinated president

Republican candidate Richard Nixon defeats Hubert Humphrey in the US presidential election

Harvard academic Henry Kissinger is selected by President Nixon as his national security adviser

Three US astronauts become the first humans to leave the earth's orbit, reaching the moon and going into its orbit in *Apollo 8*

The US astronauts in *Apollo 8* are the first humans to see (and photograph) the sight of the earth rising above the moon's horizon

1969

At a congress in Cairo, Yasser Arafat is appointed leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)

On the death of Levi Eshkol, Golda Meir succeeds him as leader of a coalition government in Israel

The Provisional IRA reintroduces terrorism to northern Ireland after Protestants attack a civil rights march

The Anglo-French airliner Concorde makes its first supersonic test flight

British artist duo Gilbert & George attract attention miming to Flanagan and Allen's *Underneath the Arches*

English novelist John Fowles publishes *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, set in Lyme Regis in the 1860s

Pakistan's president Ayub Khan hands over power to another general, Yahya Khan, who introduces martial law

Peter Maxwell Davies writes *Eight Songs for a Mad King* for the Pierrot Players

The first series of *Monty Python's Flying Circus* is broadcast on British TV

Moscow imposes Gustav Husak as first secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, with the brief to reverse Dubcek's reforms

President de Gaulle resigns after losing a plebiscite on government reform

Georges Pompidou is elected president of France in succession to de Gaulle

Paul Newman and Robert Redford star in the film *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*

US novelist Philip Roth publishes *Portnoy's Complaint*, a monologue in which the hero gives his psychoanalyst a frank description of his sexual frustrations

The Stonewall riots in New York prompt a US campaign for Gay and Lesbian rights

The Gang of Four achieve malign power during China's Cultural Revolution

Space-traveller Billy Pilgrim suffers horrors in Kurt Vonnegut's novel *Slaughterhouse-Five*

Mary Jo Kopechne drowns when US senator Edward Kennedy drives his car off the road on Chappaquiddick Island in Massachusetts

Neil Armstrong, commander of the US space mission Apollo 11, sets foot on the moon and says: 'That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.'

British film director John Schlesinger makes *Midnight Cowboy*, starring Dustin Hoffman and Jon Voight

Russian chess player Boris Spassky beats Tigran Petrosian to become world champion

19-year-old rugby player J.P.R. Williams makes his debut for Wales in a match against Scotland

Nearly half a million people turn up for the Woodstock Music Festival at a dairy farm in Bethel, New York

Canadian author Margaret Atwood publishes her first novel, *The Edible Woman*

Australian tennis player Rod Laver is the first to win the Grand Slam a second time

Idris I, king of Libya, is deposed in a bloodless coup led by Muammar al-Gaddafi

An engineer in the newly formed Intel Corporation designs the first programmable microchip

Italian composer Luciano Berio completes his *Sinfonia* for eight voices and orchestra

Willy Brandt, leader of the SPD (Social Democratic Party), becomes chancellor of Germany

Scottish Grand Prix racing driver Jackie Stewart wins the first of his three world championship titles

The Northern Irish player George Best is voted European Footballer of the Year

The ARPANET, linking computers in four US cities, is the first step towards the internet

Paintings discovered on stone slabs in a cave in Namibia are dated to about 28,000 years ago

British scientists Patrick Steptoe and Robert Edwards fertilize in a test-tube eggs removed from human ovaries

1970

US author Maya Angelou publishes her autobiographical first novel, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

The breakaway province of Biafra surrenders after three years of devastating civil war in Nigeria

Australian author David Malouf is first published as a poet, with his collection *Bicycle and Other Poems*

Salvador Allende, heading a Socialist and Marxist coalition, is elected president in Chile

Norodom Sihanouk is removed from power in Cambodia in a US-supported coup led by General Lon Nol

US film director Robert Altman launches a successful and long-running theme with his

Vietnam black comedy, *M*A*S*H*

Qaboos bin Sa'id seizes the throne from his father, Sultan Sa'id, in a palace coup in Oman

President Nixon sends US troops into Cambodia to destroy Vietminh bases

Four students are killed by National Guards during an anti-Vietnam War demonstration at Kent State University in Ohio

Two students are killed at the all-black Jackson State College in Mississippi when police fire into a dormitory during a riot

Australian feminist Germaine Greer publishes *The Female Eunuch* as a wake-up call to women

Australian tennis player Margaret Court achieves the grand slam in singles, adding it to her previous grand slam in doubles

Edward Heath is prime minister after leading the Conservatives to UK election victory

Polish composer Andrzej Panufnik's *Universal Prayer*, a cantata setting poetry by Alexander Pope, has its premiere in New York

Italian playwright Dario Fo's black comedy *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* has its premiere in Milan

Ba'thist leader Hafiz al-Assad takes power in a military coup in Syria

US feminist Kate Millett's *Sexual Politics* is her doctoral dissertation on the exploitation of women

Russian ballerina Natalia Makarova defects to the west while on tour with the Kirov

company in London

The Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) is formed in northern Ireland as a coalition of Catholic nationalists and civil-rights campaigners

Polish composer Witold Lutoslawski writes a cello concerto for Mstislav Rostropovich

Nasser dies of a sudden heart attack and is succeeded as Egypt's president by Anwar el-Sadat

King Hussein of Jordan orders the disarming of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) after violent clashes with his own troops

Alexander Solzhenitsyn wins the Nobel Prize for Literature but declines collecting it in Stockholm for fear of being denied re-entry to Russia

A Quebec government minister, Pierre Laporte, is murdered by the *Front de Libération du Québec*

Japanese novelist Yukio Mishima commits suicide in the traditional Samurai manner

Michael Tippett's opera *The Knot Garden* has its premiere at Covent Garden

Mujibur Rahman and his Awami League win on an independence platform in the election in East Pakistan

In the Pakistan election, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto wins a clear majority in West Pakistan

The outgoing Pakistan government, led by Yahya Khan, rejects the election result and sends troops to East Pakistan

performance at the Guggenheim Museum in New York

Idi Amin leads a successful coup against the president of Uganda, Milton Obote

US and South Vietnamese troops cross the border to invade Laos

Joe Frazier becomes the first boxer to beat Muhammad Ali in a professional fight, at New York's Madison Square Gardens

Hip-hop originates as a dance style in New York among young African Americans

Indian sitar-player Ravi Shankar composes the first of his two concertos for sitar and orchestra

The Soviets put into orbit the first space station, *Salyut 1*, but the crew of three die on returning to earth

The 19-year-old Jean Claude Duvalier, succeeding his father as president of Haiti, becomes known as Baby Doc

Duel, about a motorist terrorized by a truck driver, launches Stephen Spielberg's career as a film director in Hollywood

With support from Moscow, Erich Honecker takes Walter Ulbricht's place as leader of East Germany

Ian Paisley and others in northern Ireland form the Democratic Unionist Party, as the intransigent wing of Ulster Unionism

Awami League leader Mujibur Rahman declares unilaterally that Bangladesh (East Pakistan) is an independent state

Mobutu gives the Congo a new name, Zaire, deriving from an African word for river

King Hussein, alarmed at the continuing power of Palestinian guerrillas within Jordan, expels the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)

Evidence of official deception concerning US involvement in Vietnam is published in the *New York Times* as the Pentagon Papers

The arrest of Mujibur Rahman, together with brutal attempts at repression, turn resistance in East Pakistan into full-scale civil war

19-year-old Aboriginal tennis player Evonne Goolagong wins the singles title at Wimbledon

Gerry Adams is imprisoned for suspected IRA links but is released for lack of evidence

The Chilean poet Pablo Neruda wins the Nobel Prize for Literature

In the *Apollo 15* mission US astronauts David Scott and James Irwin drive the vehicle Rover-1 on the surface of the moon

Internment without trial, reintroduced in Ulster to deal with the developing crisis, is used at first only against Catholics suspected of terrorism

Stanley Kubrick directs Malcolm McDowell in a film of Anthony Burgess's novel *A Clockwork Orange*

British artist David Hockney paints a striking triple portrait in *Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy*

Greenpeace is founded in Canada to campaign against US nuclear testing

Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Jesus Christ Superstar* is staged a year after being released as a

record

95-year-old Spanish cellist Pablo Casals conducts in New York his *Hymn to the United Nations*

India intervenes in the Pakistan civil war on the side of East Pakistan, the future Bangladesh

Peter Maxwell Davies moves to the Orkneys, where he founds (in 1977) the St Magnus Festival

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), expelled from Jordan, makes a new base in Lebanon

Libya's political bible is now the *Green Book* by Muammar al-Gaddafi

Pakistan surrenders to India within a month of Indian intervention in the war to suppress East Pakistan

With the end of the war between Pakistan and India, East Pakistan becomes independent as Bangladesh

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto takes over as president of Pakistan, now consisting only of its western half

1972

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman returns from prison in West Pakistan to become prime minister of the newly independent state of Bangladesh

Aborigines pitch a Tent Embassy on Australia Day outside parliament in Canberra to highlight political injustices

British paratroops open fire on a civil rights march in Derry, killing thirteen, in what becomes known as Bloody Sunday

The British government suspends the parliament at Stormont and imposes direct rule from Westminster

An Equal Rights Amendment is passed by Congress but fails when not ratified in sufficient states

In an orgy of ethnic slaughter in Burundi, Tutsis kill some 100,000 Hutus

The SALT 1 treaty is signed by the US and USSR, limiting anti-ballistic missiles

Ultimos Ritos ('Last Rites'), an oratorio by John Tavener, has its first performance in Haarlem in the Netherlands

Bernardo Bertolucci directs Marlon Brando in the sexually explicit film *Last Tango in Paris*

Jean-Marie Le Pen founds a neo-Fascist party in France, the National Front

Five burglars are arrested breaking into the Democratic National Committee HQ at the Watergate office building in Washington

Spanish director Luis Buñuel satirizes social conventions in his film *Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie*

Francis Ford Coppola writes and directs *The Godfather*, the first of three related films

Peter Maxwell Davies's opera *Taverneris* performed at Covent Garden

Eleven Israeli athletes are killed by Palestinian 'Black September' terrorists at the Munich Olympic Games

US swimmer Mark Spitz wins seven gold medals in the Munich Olympics

The Tuskegee syphilis experiment in Alabama becomes a major scandal after a whistleblower reveals the details

Ferdinand Marcos declares martial law in the Philippines, citing the danger of a Communist takeover

English dramatist Caryl Churchill's first play, *Owners*, is produced in London

The Washington Post publishes the first report that the Watergate break-in was linked to Richard Nixon's re-election campaign

English poet James Fenton publishes his first collection, *Terminal Moraine*

Richard Nixon is re-elected US president with a landslide victory over Democrat George McGovern

Chess player Bobby Fischer defeats Boris Spassky to become the first US world champion

Gough Whitlam is Australia's prime minister after Labor party victory

Russian composer Alfred Schnittke's First Symphony alarms the Soviet authorities and is denied a Moscow premiere

1973

Prime minister Jack Lynch leads Ireland into the European Community

Prime minister Edward Heath takes Britain into the European Community, on the third attempt

The Paris Peace Accords end the US combat role in Vietnam, with nothing achieved and

millions dead

Elvis Presley performs in Honolulu in the Aloha Concert, the first programme to be broadcast live round the world by satellite

In the *Calder* case, the Supreme Court of Canada recognizes Aboriginal title to land

A Little Night Music, with lyrics and music by Stephen Sondheim, has its premiere in New York

Activists of the American Indian Movement survive a ten-week siege at Wounded Knee, winning international attention

British economist Ernst Friedrich Schumacher publishes an influential economic tract, *Small is Beautiful*

US choreographer Twyla Tharp creates *Deuce Coupe*, set to songs by the Beach Boys

Roe v. Wade establishes in US law that prohibiting abortion violates a woman's right to privacy

The last US troops leave Vietnam, ending American involvement in a continuing war between the north and south of the country

The Sears Tower opens in Chicago, displacing the Empire State as the tallest building in the world

Paul Newman and Robert Redford star in the film *The Sting*

The score of the film *The Sting* revives interest in Scott Joplin and ragtime

Thomas Pynchon's *Gravity's Rainbow* conjures up weird events in wartime London

The Polisario is formed to fight for the independence of Western Sahara

Winning power in a military coup, Juvenal Habyarimana begins a 21-year spell as dictator in Rwanda

The career of virtuoso cellist Jacqueline du Pré's is cut short by multiple sclerosis

The Watergate scandal claims its first senior victims with the resignation of two of Nixon's closest advisers, Bob Haldeman and John Ehrlichman

A military coup plunges democratic Uruguay into eleven years of repressive terror

A military coup deposes Zahir Shah and brings to an end the hereditary monarchy in Afghanistan

Likud is formed in Israel as an alliance of right-wing parties

US author Stephen King publishes *Carrie*, the first of his many best-selling horror novels

President Salvador Allende appoints Augusto Pinochet commander-in-chief of the Chilean army and brings him into the cabinet

The 77-year-old Juan Perón, after returning to Argentina, is once again elected president

William Friedkin directs a horror movie, *The Exorcist*, from a novel by William Peter Blatty

Henry Kissinger, previously head of the National Security Council, is appointed US secretary of state

Chilean president Salvador Allende dies in the Chilean capital, Santiago, in a military coup led by Augusto Pinochet

The first volume of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's *The Gulag Archipelago*, an exposé of Stalin's labour camps, is published in Paris

The Sydney Opera House opens with a performance by Australian Opera of Prokofiev's *War and Peace*

Egypt and Syria launch a surprise attack against Israel on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement

US vice-president Spiro Agnew resigns when convicted on charges of bribery

Richard Nixon appoints Gerald Ford as his vice-president in place of the disgraced Spiro Agnew

Arab oil-exporting countries cause an economic crisis by denying oil to western countries supporting Israel

US author Erica Jong publishes her first novel, *Fear of Flying*

A cease-fire brokered by the USA and UN brings the Yom Kippur War to an end after 18 days

Patrick White is the first Australian to win the Nobel Prize for Literature

Martin Amis, son of Kingsley Amis, publishes his first novel, *The Rachel Papers*

1974

Alexander Solzhenitsyn is deported from the USSR to West Germany for publishing *The Gulag Archipelago*

Antoinette Sibley and Anthony Dowell dance together in the premiere of Kenneth MacMillan's *Manon*

British physicist Stephen Hawking describes how black holes can emit radiation, a process now known as 'Hawking radiation'

More than 7000 life-size terracotta soldiers are unearthed at Xi'an, placed to guard the tomb of the third century BC Chinese emperor Shi Huangdi

A military coup in Portugal ends four decades of Salazar's and Caetano's dictatorial New State

Augusto Pinochet takes sole power in Chile, at the head of a junta which governs with extreme brutality

Donald Johanson and Tom Gray find an almost complete *Australopithecus* female skeleton at Hadar in Ethiopia, and nickname her Lucy after the Beatles song *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds*

Willy Brandt resigns and is succeeded by Helmut Schmidt, as leader of the SPD and chancellor of Germany

Former prime minister Harold Wilson returns to Downing Street as leader of a minority government, but wins a second general election later in the year

Valéry Giscard d'Estaing defeats François Mitterrand in the French presidential election

Golda Meir resigns and Yitzhak Rabin succeeds her as leader of the Labour party and Israeli prime minister

US tennis player Chris Evert wins the first of three victories at Wimbledon and of seven in the French Open

Jimmy Connors wins both Wimbledon and the US Open, on each occasion defeating the veteran Ken Rosewall

German-born British art historian Nikolaus Pevsner completes his monumental 46-volume *Buildings of England*

Isabel Perón becomes president of Argentina on the death of her husband Juan Perón

An uprising organized in Ethiopia by the Dergue results in the arrest of Haile Selassie and his murder a year later

Turkish troops invade and occupy northeast Cyprus, causing the island to be divided for decades to come

The US Supreme Court orders President Nixon to hand over White House tapes of conversations relevant to Watergate

The House Judiciary Committee takes the first steps in the process of impeaching President Nixon, citing obstruction of justice

Soviet dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov defects from the Kirov company while on tour in Canada

Faced by the prospect of impeachment over Watergate, President Nixon resigns

Richard Nixon is succeeded as US president by his vice-president, Gerald Ford

President Ford pardons ex-president Nixon for his part in the Watergate affair, thus removing the possibility of criminal charges

Muhammad Ali regains the world heavyweight title, beating George Foreman in Zaire in a

fight that becomes known as the Rumble in the Jungle

Portuguese Guinea becomes independent as Guinea-Bissau, with Luís Cabral as president

Kenneth MacMillan uses Scott Joplin as his score for a ragtime ballet, *Elite Syncopations*

The SNP achieves a surge in Scottish nationalism, winning eleven seats at Westminster on 30% of the Scottish vote

The Canadian province of Quebec introduces Bill 22, making French the province's sole official language

Cyclone Tracy devastates the Australian city of Darwin on Christmas Day, destroying 80% of the domestic buildings

1975

Internment is ended in Ulster after the Gardiner Report states that it brings the law into disrepute

The independence of Angola is established in the Alvor agreement between Portugal and three rival guerrilla groups, the MPLA, FNLA, and UNITA

The MPLA, controlling the capital but not the country, declares itself the government of newly independent Angola

Richard Burton marries Elizabeth Taylor for the second time, five years after divorcing

The republic of Dahomey changes its name to one already famous in African history – Benin

UNITA and the FNLA join forces to set up a rival Angolan government at Huambo, in the south of the country

Chiang Kai-shek dies and is succeeded by his son, Chiang Ching-Kuo, as leader of the

republic of China in Taiwan

Anatoly Karpov becomes world chess champion by default when Bobby Fischer fails to defend his title

The king of Morocco sends 350,000 settlers across the border into Western Sahara

The South Vietnamese capital, Saigon, is taken by North Vietnamese forces

South Vietnam surrenders, as President Duong Van Minh broadcasts an order to all South Vietnamese forces to lay down their arms

The Willis Faber building, by English architect Norman Foster, is completed in Ipswich

Khmer Rouge guerrillas, led by Pol Pot, take Phnom Penh and launch a genocidal reign of terror in Cambodia

US author E.L. Doctorow sets his novel *Ragtime* in the early years of the 20th century

The first series of *Fawlty Towers*, co-written by and starring John Cleese, is broadcast on British TV

Yakubu Gowon, who united Nigeria after the Biafran war, is thrown out in a military coup

Milos Forman directs Jack Nicholson in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, based on a novel by Ken Kesey

David Hockney begins a new career as a set designer, with *The Rake's Progress* by Stravinsky at Glyndebourne

Portuguese East Africa becomes independent as Mozambique, with Frelimo as the only

political party

The Cape Verde islands, off the west coast of Africa, become independent as the republic of Cape Verde

Astronauts Tom Stafford and Aleksei Leonov shake hands when their Apollo and Soyuz craft successfully dock in space

Czech choreographer Jiri Kylián becomes director of the Netherlands Dance Theatre in The Hague

US director Steven Spielberg has a major success with his second feature film, *Jaws*

Mujibur Rahman, with most of his family, is assassinated by junior officers in a coup in Bangladesh

The island of Papua New Guinea wins independence from Australia

School friends Bill Gates and Paul Allen found a software firm, calling it Microsoft

Excavation of the 5200-year-old passage grave at Newgrange in Ireland is completed

Austrian racing driver Niki Lauda wins the first of three Formula One world championship titles

The British group the Sex Pistols launch punk rock, with their first gig at St Martin's School of Art in London

There is political turmoil in Australia after the governor-general, Sir John Kerr, dismisses prime minister Gough Whitlam

Australian governor-general Sir John Kerr appoints Liberal leader Malcolm Fraser as

caretaker prime minister

Franco dies and is succeeded as Spanish head of state by Juan Carlos, heir to the Bourbon throne

English author Ruth Praver Jhabwala wins the Booker Prize with her novel *Heat and Dust*

Surinam wins independence from the Dutch, with Johan Ferrier as the first president

Robert Muldoon is prime minister of New Zealand after a National Party ;election victory

In Angola the USA and USSR fund rival guerrilla groups, MPLA and UNITA

The invasion of East Timor by Indonesia begins decades of guerrilla resistance and brutal repression

Canadian novelist Robertson Davies completes his semi-autobiographical *Deptford Trilogy*

Malcolm Fraser becomes the Australian prime minister, winning the first of three general election victories

Cuban troops, sent by Castro to Angola, clash with South African forces attempting to combat communism

1976

Mikhail Baryshnikov dances in the New York premiere of Twyla Tharp's ballet *Push Comes to Shove*

Nkomo and Mugabe merge their guerrilla troops in a more effective disruptive force, to be known as the Patriotic Front

Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs design and market a personal computer, calling it the Apple

Portugal adopts a democratic constitution after 43 years of dictatorship

Frederick Ashton creates a ballet based on Turgenev's play *A Month in the Country*, to music by Chopin

Harold Wilson unexpectedly resigns as the British prime minister and is succeeded by James Callaghan

14-year-old Jodie Foster stars as a drug-addicted child prostitute in Martin Scorsese's *Taxi Driver*

Mary Leakey and her team find footprints, about 3.6 million years old, of bipedal hominids walking upright at Laetoli in Tanzania

The UN entrusts the Western Sahara to joint administration by Morocco and Mauritania

The British public is outraged to discover that the Tate Gallery has spent money purchasing Carl Andre's arrangement of bricks, *Equivalent VIII*

A guerrilla movement, with Rhodesian backing, launches a long civil war against Frelimo in Mozambique

A military coup in Argentina brings to an end the two-year presidency of Juan Perón's widow, Isabelita

Polish composer Henryk Górecki completes his Third Symphony

The Polisario, as a government-in-exile in Algeria, proclaim the independence of Western Sahara as the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic

Britain's new National Theatre, designed by Denys Lasdun, opens on the South Bank in

London,

Pierre Boulez establishes in Paris IRCAM, an advanced institute for research into the techniques of modern music

Hundreds of deaths and casualties result from police firing on a demonstration by schoolchildren in the black township of Soweto

Mario Soares becomes Portugal's first democratically elected prime minister in half a century

In a daring raid on Entebbe airport, Israeli troops rescue hostages hijacked on a flight from Tel Aviv to Paris

The Swedish tennis player Björn Borg wins the first of five consecutive singles titles at Wimbledon

The landing section of the US spacecraft *Viking 1* detaches from the orbiter and makes a successful landing on Mars

Liverpool football player Kevin Keegan begins six years as captain of England

Black American author Alex Haley traces his family origins in Africa in *Roots*

333 days after leaving Earth, the landing section of the US spacecraft *Viking 2* touches down on Mars and begins sending back photographs

Mao Zedong dies in Beijing, at the age of 82, and lies in state in the Great Hall of the People

Bulgarian-born US artist Christo (Christo Javacheff) constructs a 24-mile *Running Fence* in California

The much-hated Gang of Four are arrested in China within weeks of Mao Zedong's death

The incumbent president Gerald Ford is defeated by Democrat Jimmy Carter in the US election

19-year-old Spanish golfer Severiano Ballesteros ends the year as number one in Europe

1977

Mengistu Haile Mariam seizes control of Ethiopia's ruling Dergue (military council) in a violent coup

Royal tombs are excavated at Vergina, in Macedonia, probably including that of Philip of Macedon

Jacques Chirac, leader of a recently formed neo-Gaullist party, is elected mayor of Paris

Steven Spielberg writes and directs an influential science fiction movie, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*

Likud leader Menachem Begin, at the head of a coalition government, becomes Israel's first non-socialist prime minister

A treaty provides for the gradual transfer of the Canal Zone from US to Panamanian control

George Lucas writes and directs a science fantasy, *Star Wars*, launching a narrative that will be expanded in a further five films

The French Territory of Afars and Issas becomes independent as Djibouti, with Hassan Gouled Aptidon as president

German author Botho Strauss's play *Three Acts of Recognition* wins him an international audience

Zia ul-Haq, the Chief of Army Staff, takes power in a bloodless coup against the

government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto

Estonian composer Arvo Pärt completes his choral work *Cantus in memoriam Benjamin Britten*

Elvis Presley dies, aged 42, at his home in Memphis, Tennessee

After making several films together, Woody Allen and his partner Diane Keaton have an Oscar-winning success with *Annie Hall*

The Pompidou Centre, designed by Renzo Piano and Richard Rogers, opens in Paris

Steve Biko, founder of Black Consciousness, dies of head wounds received in police custody in Pretoria

Anwar el-Sadat, the Egyptian president, travels to Jerusalem to propose a peace plan to the Israelis

In a multi-million dollar ceremony, Jean-Bédél Bokassa proclaims himself emperor of the Central African Republic

1978

Kenneth MacMillan turns a double suicide of 1889 into a ferociously dramatic ballet, *Mayerling*

US author John Irving has wide success with his novel *The World According to Garp*

Hungarian composer György Ligeti's opera *Le Grand Macabre* has its premiere in Stockholm

John Mortimer's *Rumpole of the Bailey*, with Leo McKern in the title role, begins its first series of six episodes on British TV

Former Italian prime minister Aldo Moro is abducted and assassinated by the terrorist Red

Brigades

Iris Murdoch publishes *The Sea, the Sea*, and wins the 1978 Booker Prize

English author Andrew Motion publishes his first collection of poems, *The Pleasure Steamers*

Muhammad Ali is the first boxer to become world heavyweight champion three times, defeating Leon Spinks in a return match a year after losing the title

Shining Path and Tupac Amaru emerge as left-wing guerrilla groups in Peru

Douglas Adams creates *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* as a science fiction comedy series for BBC's Radio 4

Czech-born US tennis player Martina Navratilova wins the first of nine singles titles at Wimbledon

English cricketer Ian Botham sets a new Test record, scoring a century and taking eight wickets against Pakistan at Lord's

Louise Brown, born in England, is the first test-tube baby, having been conceived by IVF (*In vitro* fertilization)

Jomo Kenyatta dies in office as Kenya's president and is succeeded by his deputy, Daniel arap Moi

Italian cardinal Albino Luciani is elected pope and takes the name John Paul I

Sandinista guerrillas make a surprise attack on the National Palace in Nicaragua, taking more than 1000 people hostage

Anwar el-Sadat and Menachem Begin sign an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty at Camp David in the USA

British author Ian McEwan publishes his first novel, *The Cement Garden*

Pope John Paul I dies, after a pontificate of only 33 days

A Catholic-Orthodox joint commission acknowledges the long-term aim of re-establishing full communion between the two churches

David Attenborough writes and presents *Life on Earth*, a television series on evolution – the first of his many surveys of natural history

Polish cardinal Karol Wojtyla is elected pope and takes the name John Paul II

Belgian cyclist Eddie Merckx retires after a 14-year career with a record 445 victories

Demonstrations take place throughout Iran, demanding Islamic rule under the leadership of Ayatollah Khomeini

Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian president Anwar el-Sadat share the Nobel Peace Prize

Vietnamese forces invade Cambodia, driving out Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge

There are so many strikes in Britain this winter that it becomes known as the 'winter of discontent'

1979

An Islamic revolution forces the Shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, to flee from Iran

Morocco annexes the Mauritanian part of the Western Sahara, thus taking control of the

entire region

Ayatollah Khomeini receives a rapturous welcome on his return to Iran to head the Islamic Revolutionary Committee

Francis Ford Coppola directs Marlon Brando and Martin Sheen in *Apocalypse Now*

Idi Amin flees from Uganda as Tanzanian troops reach his capital, Kampala

Partial meltdown of a US nuclear power station at Three Mile Island, near Harrisburg, spreads radioactive steam over a large surrounding area

Ex-president Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is executed in Pakistan for allegedly authorizing the murder of a political opponent

The first multiracial elections held in Rhodesia are won by bishop Abel Muzorewa

Communist measures in Afghanistan provoke a Muslim *jihad* and the murder of more than 100 Russians in Herat

The Conservative party wins the general election and Margaret Thatcher becomes Britain's first female prime minister

The emergency measures underpinning military rule are repealed in Brazil, and an amnesty restores political rights

John Paul II makes an emotional and influential return to Poland, the country of his birth

Young officers, led by flight lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, take power in a coup in Ghana

Peter Shaffer's play about Mozart, *Amadeus*, has its premiere in London

A Sandinista junta, headed by Daniel Ortega, takes power in Nicaragua – bringing to an end four decades of brutal rule by the Somoza dynasty

Daniel Ortega leads the Sandinistas to electoral victory in Nicaragua

Lord Mountbatten is killed by an IRA bomb that explodes on his boat in the bay of Donegal

Opponents of the Sandinistas flee from Nicaragua into Honduras, where they become known as the Contras

Saddam Hussein begins a reign of terror in Iraq, reading out at a meeting the names of fellow Ba'thists who are to be taken out and shot

20-year-old US tennis player John McEnroe wins the singles title in the US Open for the first of four times

British artist Richard Long lays out his *Slate Circle* at the Tate Gallery in London

French paratroops bring to an end the savage rule of Bokassa in the Central African Republic

Supporters of Ayatollah Khomeini seize the US embassy in Tehran, taking hostage 66 US citizens

Soviet troops invade Afghanistan to suppress anti-communist anarchy

A conference in London, at Lancaster House, finally achieves agreement on Southern Rhodesia

Britain agrees to fund the purchase of land of British farmers in Southern Rhodesia willing to sell, for a much-needed land distribution programme

The Global Commission for the Eradication of Smallpox announces that the world is free of the disease

1979 APRIL 29

The first flight by a solar-powered piloted aircraft is achieved when Larry Mauro's Solar Riser is able to climb to about 40 feet and glide for half a mile

1980

The small firm of Microsoft wins the contract to provide the operating system of the IBM personal computer

The USA ends all aid to Nicaragua and provides funds to train and equip the Contras in neighbouring Honduras

Archbishop Oscar Romero, an exponent of liberation theology, is killed as he celebrates Mass in San Salvador

Italian academic Umberto Eco publishes *The Name of the Rose*, a medieval murder mystery

The threat of a hunger strike persuades the British government to authorize S4C (Sianel Pedwar Cymru), a television channel broadcasting in Welsh

A US helicopter mission fails disastrously in its attempt to rescue the embassy hostages in Tehran

US author Sam Shepard's play *True West* has its premiere in New York

Rhodesia becomes independent, taking the name Zimbabwe, with Robert Mugabe as prime minister

A coup in Uganda brings Milton Obote back into power, and he is confirmed as president in a subsequent general election

The song *O Canada*, exactly a century old, is officially adopted as the country's national

anthem

Electrician Lech Walesa emerges as the leader of a strike in the Gdansk shipyard in Poland

The Charter of Rights and Freedoms secures new aspects of Canada's national identity

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerges in India from previous Hindu nationalist groups and soon acquires a large following

US basketball champion Magic Johnson begins 12 years with the Los Angeles Lakers

Martin Scorsese directs Robert de Niro in *Raging Bull*

US choreographer Mark Morris founds his own company, the Mark Morris Dance Group, based in New York

A trade union, Solidarność (Solidarity), is formed by strikers in the Gdansk shipyard in Poland

Lech Walesa is elected chairman of the newly formed Polish trade union movement Solidarność (Solidarity)

Saddam Hussein invades Iran, beginning an 8-year war that will bring massive human cost

Republican Ronald Reagan wins the US presidential election against the incumbent Jimmy Carter

Beatle John Lennon is murdered by a psychopath on the steps of his and Yoko Ono's apartment block in New York

presidency

The SDP hives off from Britain's Labour party – and seven years later merges with the Liberals to form the Liberal Democrats

Rebels storm the Spanish parliament in Madrid and briefly hold the members hostage, in a military coup that fails

The Kremlin appoints a general, Wojciech Jaruzelski, as prime minister of Poland

Henry and Jane Fonda, father and daughter, star with Katherine Hepburn in *On Golden Pond*

Sandra Day O'Connor becomes the first woman appointed to the US Supreme Court

Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan share a common economic viewpoint, following the policy known as monetarism

President Reagan is shot outside a hotel in Washington by John W. Hinckley Jr, but survives

Veteran Communist leader Deng Xiaoping secures his position as the real power in China's government

War Music is the first instalment of Christopher Logue's version of the *Iliad*

François Mitterrand defeats Valéry Giscard d'Estaing in the French presidential election

Salman Rushdie's novel *Midnight's Children* uses the moment of India's independence to launch an adventure in magic realism

Australian entrepreneur Rupert Murdoch buys Britain's establishment newspaper, *The*

Times, and its related titles

A Turkish assailant in St Peter's Square in Rome shoots and seriously wounds John Paul II

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is described for the first time in a US medical journal

The Humber Bridge crosses the Humber estuary in Britain, and is the world's longest suspension bridge with a main span of 4626 feet (1410m)

Karlheinz Stockhausen's *Thursday from Light*, the first of a seven-part opera cycle, is performed in Milan

Prince Charles marries Diana Spencer in St Paul's Cathedral in London

The IBM PC 5150, the first Personal Computer, is launched with a chip by Intel and software by Microsoft

English author Anita Brookner publishes her first novel, *A Start in Life*

Raiders of the Lost Ark launches an ongoing series for director Steven Spielberg and actor Harrison Ford

Stolen Generations, by Peter Read, reveals the scandal of Aboriginal children forcibly removed from their parents

Chariots of Fire, directed by Hugh Hudson, dramatizes the rivalry between two British athletes at the 1924 Summer Olympics

Muslim terrorists assassinate Anwar el-Sadat, in response to his peace agreement with Israel

Sadat is peacefully succeeded in Egypt by his vice-president, Hosni Mubarak

British snooker player Steve Davis wins the first of six world championship titles

16-year-old ballerina Sylvie Guillem joins the Paris Opera Ballet

Polish prime minister Wojciech Jaruzelski imposes martial law and suspends Solidarność (Solidarity)

Leopoldo Galtieri becomes leader of the military junta ruling Argentina

Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *Cats*, based on the Old Possum poems by T.S. Eliot, opens in London

1982

The Saudi fundamentalist Osama bin Laden joins the mujaheddin in their fight against the Soviet occupiers of Afghanistan

Steven Spielberg directs *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, in which an alien is stranded on earth and is befriended by a young boy

5000 Argentinian troops land in the Falkland Islands, provoking war with Britain

Dustin Hoffman, in *Tootsie*, plays a man who becomes a star in the persona of an actress

Chilean author Isabel Allende publishes her first novel, *The House of the Spirits*

Congress in Washington passes the Boland Amendment, banning US military aid to the Contras

The Argentinian cruiser *General Belgrano* is sunk by a British torpedo, with the loss of 368 lives

Little Shop of Horrors, by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken, opens in New York

Michael Frayn's farce *Noises Off* opens in London's West end

Sun Myung Moon, founder of the Unification Church (or 'Moonies'), is convicted in the USA of tax fraud and imprisoned

Senegal and the Gambia partially merge as Senegambia, in a confederation which lasts seven years

Israeli Minister of Defence Ariel Sharon heads Israel's invasion of Lebanon to expel the PLO

British troops recapture Port Stanley, after which the Argentinian forces in the Falklands surrender

The leader of the Argentinian junta, Leopoldo Galtieri, resigns three days after the Falklands defeat

Australian novelist Thomas Keneally publishes *Schindler's Ark* and wins the Booker Prize

Yasser Arafat and the PLO move to Tunisia, after being driven out of Lebanon by Israel

Argentinian footballer Diego Maradona is sold to Barcelona for a new record fee of about £3 million, almost double the highest previous figure

8,000-year-old human remains are found in a waterlogged burial site at Windover, in Florida

British fashion designer Vivienne Westwood, promoter of the punk style, shows a collection called Punkature

British director Richard Attenborough creates an epic film, *Gandhi*, from the life of the pacifist Indian leader

US film actress Grace Kelly is killed in a car accident in Monte Carlo

Christian militiamen massacre Palestinian refugees in the Sabra and Chatila camps in Lebanon

Leaders of Canada's Aboriginal peoples form the Assembly of First Nations (AFN)

CDU leader Helmut Kohl follows Helmut Schmidt as chancellor of Germany

The trade union movement Solidarność (Solidarity) is declared illegal by the Polish government

George Segal's bronze monument *The Holocaust* is unveiled in San Francisco

Hezbollah emerges in Lebanon as an Iranian-sponsored resistance movement against the Israeli occupation of the southern part of the country

After 18 years as General Secretary of the Communist party in the USSR, Leonid Brezhnev dies in office

Michael Jackson's releases the album *Thriller*, which goes on to sell 40 million copies in ten years

1983

British economist Nicholas Kaldor attacks monetarism in *The Economic Consequences of Mrs Thatcher*

Bob Hawke is Australia's prime minister after a Labor victory in the election

Ronald Harwood's play *The Dresser* is partly inspired by the British actor Donald Wolfit

President Reagan proposes a Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) against nuclear attack

The first all-digital synthesizer, the DX7, is put on the market by Yamaha

A civilian government, voted into power in Argentina, prosecutes members of the military junta for civil rights abuses

Philip Johnson completes the A.T. & T. skyscraper in New York, an early example of Post-Modernism

The US system MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) becomes the industry standard for electronic communication in music

Philips and Sony jointly introduce a new device, the compact disc

Manuel Noriega wins control of the National Guard in Panama on his way to achieving absolute power

South African novelist J.M. Coetzee publishes *The Life and Times of Michael K*, and wins the Booker Prize

A new version of the Apple adds the mouse to personal computers

Philippine opposition leader Benigno Aquino is assassinated at Manila International Airport

The Tamil Tigers launch a civil war against the Sinhalese majority in Sri Lanka

Classical ballerina Natalia Makarova triumphs on Broadway in *On Your Toes*

Rudolf Nureyev begins a successful 6-year period as artistic director of the Paris Opera Ballet

Government imposition of Islamic law (sharia) triggers renewed civil war in Sudan between the Muslim north and Christian south

Polish union leader and activist Lech Walesa is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

President Reagan sends US marines to Grenada after the execution of the island's prime minister, Maurice Bishop

Olivier Messiaen's opera *St Francis of Assisi* has its premiere in Paris

Luc Montagnier, at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, discovers a new human retrovirus that he names LAV (later changed to HIV)

1984

British skaters Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean earn a perfect score for their *Bolero* programme in the Sarajevo winter Olympics

Milos Forman directs the screen version of Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus*

British prime minister Margaret Thatcher and union leader Arthur Scargill begin a bitter personal struggle in the miners' strike

US poet Robert Pinsky publishes an acclaimed verse translation, *The Inferno of Dante*

The name of Upper Volta is changed to Burkina Faso, meaning 'land of incorruptible people'

Arnold Schwarzenegger plays the title role, that of an almost silent killing machine, in *The Terminator*

Czech novelist Milan Kundera publishes *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, in the tradition of magic realism

Drugs barons in Colombia murder the Minister of Justice, Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, to protect their trade

Sikh rebels, demanding an independent Punjab, seize the Golden Temple in Amritsar

English athlete Daley Thompson sets an Olympic and world record in the decathlon at the Los Angeles Olympics

Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi uses the army to dislodge militant Sikhs occupying the Golden Temple in Amritsar

Diego Maradona is sold to Napoli for a new record fee of about £5 million, two years after being sold to Barcelona for £3 million

English author Julian Barnes publishes a multi-faceted literary novel, *Flaubert's Parrot*

David Lange becomes prime minister of New Zealand after a Labour election victory

British architects James Stirling and Michael Wilford complete a new art gallery for Stuttgart

Republican activist Gerry Adams is elected president of Sinn Féin

The CIA covertly arranges for mines to be laid in Nicaragua's harbours

US sprinter and long-jumper Carl Lewis wins four gold medals at the Los Angeles Olympics

A disastrous famine in the northern provinces of Ethiopia is the first to be seen all round the world on television

The Turkana Boy, the most complete known skeleton of *Homo erectus*, is found near Lake Turkana by Kamoya Kimeu in Richard Leakey's team

Roland Joffé directs *The Killing Fields*, set among the horrors of the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia

Brian Mulroney wins a decisive electoral victory over the Liberals to become prime minister of Canada

Genetic (or DNA) fingerprinting is invented and developed by British geneticist Alec Jeffreys

Luciano Berio's opera *Un re in ascolto* has its premiere in Salzburg

Australian bowler Dennis Lillee's total of 351 Test wickets sets a new record

Indira Gandhi is assassinated in Delhi by members of her Sikh bodyguard, in retaliation for the desecration of the Golden Temple

Ian Botham is the first player to achieve the double triple, with a total of more than 3000 runs and 300 wickets in Test cricket

Rajiv Gandhi succeeds his mother as leader of the Congress party and prime minister of India

Madonna (Madonna Louise Veronica Ciccone) releases her second album, *Like a Virgin*, that goes on to sell millions

The opera *Akhnaten*, by US composer Philip Glass, has its first performance in Stuttgart

US choreographer William Forsythe becomes director of the Frankfurt Ballet

Ronald Reagan is elected for a second presidential term, defeating the Democrat Walter Mondale

Bob Geldof forms Band Aid and releases for Ethiopian famine relief the best-selling UK single *Do they know its Christmas?*

Desmond Tutu, rector of an Anglican church in Soweto, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

More than 2000 die in the Indian city of Bhopal when toxic gas escapes from a Union Carbide plant

1985

Civilian rule is restored in Brazil after Tancredo Neves and Jose Sarney are elected president and vice-president

The miners' strike, ending after eleven bitter months, proves a turning point in the struggle between Margaret Thatcher and the unions

New Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev brings *glasnost* ('openness') and *perestroika* ('reform') to the USSR

With the return of democracy to Bolivia, the 77-year-old Paz Estenssoro is once again elected president

Peter Carey publishes *Illywhacker*, a novel narrated by a 139-year-old Australian

A dormant volcano erupts in Colombia, burying some 20,000 victims under a deep layer of silt

President Reagan's administration breaks a US embargo with secret arms sales to Iran in return for assistance in the release of US hostages in Lebanon

US author Don DeLillo publishes a novel of weird disasters, *White Noise*

Oliver North arranges for clandestine money from Iran to provide illegal support for the Nicaraguan Contras

17-year-old German tennis-player Boris Becker becomes the youngest ever to win the men's singles at Wimbledon

Gabriel García Márquez publishes *Love in a Time of Cholera*, a novel about love rekindled after five decades

French agents blow up Greenpeace's *Rainbow Warrior* in Auckland harbour

Live Aid, an all-day concert for famine relief in Africa, is held simultaneously in London and Philadelphia

US artist Christo tightly binds Paris's Pont Neuf in fabric, as one of his international series of wrapped iconic buildings

The first *Oprah Winfrey Show* is broadcast in the USA, beginning a very long open-ended series

Milton Obote, toppled in a bloodless Uganda coup, escapes to Zambia

Seven groups of Afghan mujaheddin form a united front against the Soviet army

Antiguan author Jamaica Kincaid publishes her first novel, *Annie John*

French racing driver Alain Prost wins the first of his four Formula One titles

Ayers Rock is returned to the Mutitjulu people and given its Aboriginal name, Uluru

The Human Genome Project begins in the US Department of Energy, with the aim of sequencing the whole of human DNA

Julius Nyerere, long-serving president of Tanzania, relinquishes power voluntarily

In a speech to the Tory Reform Group, Harold Macmillan describes Mrs Thatcher's privatization policy as 'selling the family silver'

22-year-old Gary Kasparov defeats Anatoly Karpov and becomes the youngest-ever world champion in chess

Britain's Margaret Thatcher and Ireland's Garret FitzGerald sign an Anglo-Irish Agreement to tackle shared problems

British Rasta poet Benjamin Zephaniah publishes his second collection as *The Dread Affair*

1986

The US Space shuttle *Challenger* explodes with seven on board less than two minutes after lift-off

The guerrilla leader Yoweri Museveni takes Kampala and becomes president of Uganda

Baby Doc Duvalier escapes from Haiti in a US airforce jet and goes into exile in France

Corazón Aquino, widow of the assassinated Benigno Aquino, stands against Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines presidential election

The Soviets launch the first module (the living quarters) of their *Mir* Space Station

After attempting to rig the presidential election to defeat Corazón Aquino, Ferdinand

Marcos flees from the Philippines to exile in Hawaii

Swedish prime minister Olof Palme is killed in a Stockholm street in an unsolved murder

Simultaneous acts passed in Canberra and Westminster give Australia full judicial independence, ending appeals to the UK Privy Council

The drug AZT (azidothymidine) offers hope as a way of inhibiting the progression from HIV to AIDS

President Reagan launches an air strike against Libya, accusing Gaddafi of involvement in international terrorism

Tony Cragg's *Raleigh* is unveiled outside the Tate Gallery in his home town of Liverpool

Western nations finally impose sanctions on South Africa in response to apartheid

A Soviet nuclear power station explodes at Chernobyl, scattering radioactive material over a wide area

The Rwandan Patriotic Front is formed, by a group of exiles, to bring about the downfall of Habyarimana's regime in Rwanda

Harrison Birtwistle's second opera, *The Mask of Orpheus*, brings him an international reputation

Desmond Tutu is the first black African to be archbishop of Cape Town

Argentina wins the World Cup quarter final against England with help from Maradona and 'the hand of God'

20-year-old US boxer Mike Tyson knocks out Trevor Berbick to become the youngest ever

world heavyweight champion

Yves Montand and Gérard Depardieu star in *Jean De Florette*, adapted from a novel by Marcel Pagnol

Mad Cow Disease (BSE, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy) is identified and described in Britain

Details of the Iran-Contra affair spark a Washington scandal and the criminal prosecution of Oliver North

Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki's opera *The Black Mask* is premiered in Salzburg

The Beastie Boys' *Licensed to Ill* becomes the first rap (or hip hop) album to top the US chart

1987

Mugabe and Nkomo merge their two parties as ZANU-PF, making Zimbabwe effectively a one-party state

The Zimbabwean constitution is changed to make Mugabe executive president (with Nkomo vice-president, until his death in 1999)

English poets John Fuller and James Fenton collaborate in a volume of satirical poems, *Partingtime Hall*

18-year-old German tennis player Steffi Graf deposes Martina Navratilova as world no. 1

Talking Heads, a series of dramatic monologues by English author Alan Bennett, is broadcast on British TV

The US Congress begins an investigation of the Iran-Contra affair, eventually clearing President Reagan of direct involvement

Timberlake Wertenbaker bases her play *Our Country's Good* on Thomas Keneally's novel *The Playmaker*

Sylvie Guillem and Laurent Hilaire dance in the Paris premiere of William Forsythe's *In the middle somewhat elevated*

US author Toni Morrison publishes her novel *Beloved*, loosely based on a real incident among freed slaves after the Civil War

Most of the currency in circulation in Burma becomes worthless when Ne Win replaces it with new 45 and 90 kyat notes (he says 9 is his lucky number)

US architect Daniel Libeskind designs the City Edge project in Berlin, building it up from startlingly fragmented forms

British golfer Nick Faldo wins the first of three victories in six years in the British Open

The film *Cry Freedom*, directed by Richard Attenborough, tells the story of Steve Biko, killed in police custody in South Africa

US author Tom Wolfe gives a bleak view of contemporary New York in his novel *The Bonfire of the Vanities*

The Dow-Jones index loses 30% in a dramatic US stock-market collapse

John Adams' opera *Nixon in China* is performed in Houston

Robert Hughes describes the penal system of colonial Australia in *The Fatal Shore*

An *Intifada* begins against Israeli occupation of Palestinian land

Hamas (acronym in Arabic for 'Movement for Islamic Resistance') is founded in the

occupied territories to lead armed resistance against Israel

1988

Ayatollah Khomeini declares a *fatwa* against Salman Rushdie for his *Satanic Verses*

Barry Levinson directs Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise in the film *Rain Man*

A protest against the new Burmese currency escalates after the military kill a student activist, Maung Phone Maw, on the campus of Rangoon university

The Liberals and the SDP merge in Britain to form a single political party, the Liberal Democrats

A cease-fire withdraws Cuban troops from Angola and South African forces from Angola and Namibia

British physicist Stephen Hawking explains the cosmos for the general reader in *A Brief History of Time: from the Big Bang to Black Holes*

The 'new and permanent' Parliament House of Australia is completed in Canberra

Britain stops funding Zimbabwe's purchase of land for redistribution, on the grounds that many of the farms are being given to the political elite

The Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announces that Soviet troops will leave Afghanistan, handing victory to the mujaheddin

US athlete Carl Lewis sets a new world record for the 100 metres, winning gold at the Seoul Olympics

A woman is consecrated as Suffragan Bishop of Massachusetts, becoming the first female bishop in the Anglican Communion's historic line of succession from St Peter

Yasser Arafat, leader of the PLO, declares that the organization renounces 'terrorism in all

its forms'

US architect Frank Gehry builds a strikingly unconventional house for his family in Santa Monica

Osama bin Laden's involvement in the fight against Soviet forces in Afghanistan leads to his development of al-Qaeda

Students demonstrating in Rangoon are joined by civilians and monks in what becomes known as the 8888 Uprising (from the date, 8/8/88)

Leading New York Graffiti artist Jean-Michel Basquiat dies of an overdose

The Iran-Iraq war ends with the border between the countries unchanged and more than a million dead

Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein uses chemical weapons against the Kurds of northern Iraq

Aung San Suu Kyi returns to Burma from England, to look after her dying mother

Bernardo Bertolucci directs *The Last Emperor*, a film based on the life of Puyi, the last in China's imperial line

General Saw Maung seizes power in Burma and crushes the 8888 Uprising, by now nationwide, with probably about 3000 deaths

Saw Maung calls his new regime the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) but promises to hold a free election in 1990

Brazilian racing driver Ayrton Senna wins the first of his three Formula One titles

A new party, the National League for Democracy, is formed in Burma with Aung San Suu

Kyi soon becoming its leader

Nine Roman Catholic cardinals attend the 1000th anniversary celebrations of the Russian people being brought into the Orthodox faith

English composer Mark-Anthony Turnage's first opera, *Greek*, is premiered in Munich

Augusto Pinochet, the only candidate in Chile's presidential election, resigns when he wins less than half the votes cast

English conceptual artist Damien Hirst organizes the first exhibition of the 'Young British Artists', also known as the Britpack

Australian author Peter Carey's novel *Oscar and Lucinda* wins the Booker Prize

Republican George Bush ('read my lips, no new taxes') wins the US presidential election

M. Butterfly, by US author and composer David Henry Hwang, uses Puccini's opera as its inspiration

35-year-old Benazir Bhutto, daughter of the executed president, leads a coalition government in Pakistan

A terrorist bomb brings down flight Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie in Scotland

1989

Paraguayan dictator Alfredo Stroessner is toppled by Andrés Rodríguez, who restores democracy to the country

The USSR completes the phased withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan

The supertanker *Exxon Valdez* spills vast quantities of oil in Prince William Sound, Alaska

Rupert Murdoch launches Sky, a satellite television channel, in the UK

Carlos Menem is elected president of Argentina and introduces a free market economy

Students, teachers and workers gather in large numbers in Beijing's Tiananmen Square to demand democratic reform

The crowd demonstrating on Beijing's Tiananmen Square swells to more than a million

Confronted with mass popular protest, Deng Xiaoping imposes martial law in China

Uruguay enjoys the first entirely free election since the years of military dictatorship

Ayatollah Khomeini dies and is succeeded by Sayed Ali Khamenei as Iran's leading ayatollah

More than 2000 peaceful demonstrators die after troops open fire in Beijing's Tiananmen Square

US sculptor Richard Serra's *Tilted Arc* is removed from Federal Plaza, New York, after legal action by local protesters

Slobodan Milosevic is elected president of Serbia

Elections in Poland bring Solidarność nation-wide success, and the party is soon at the head of a coalition government

The English National Ballet evolves from London's Festival Ballet

Before the coming election the military junta in Burma places democracy activist Aung San

Suu Kyi under house arrest

James Ivory directs the film *The Remains of the Day*, based on the novel by Kazuo Ishiguro

Frederik Willem de Klerk, promising reform, wins a whites-only South African presidential election

The US unmanned spacecraft *Galileo* is launched from a space shuttle on a six-year voyage to Jupiter

At CERN, in Geneva, Tim Berners-Lee and Robert Cailliau build ENQUIRE, a first step towards the future World Wide Web

Erich Honecker, leader of East Germany since 1971, is forced to resign after massive popular demonstrations

Citizens of East Berlin demolish the Berlin Wall, in what proves a symbolic end to the Cold War

British prime minister Margaret Thatcher introduces an extremely unpopular poll tax, last used in the Middle Ages

French ballerina Sylvie Guillem moves from Paris to join the Royal Ballet in London

The Communist party relinquishes power without bloodshed in Czechoslovakia's Velvet Revolution

With the fall of Pinochet, Chile returns eagerly to democracy - electing a Christian Democrat, Patricio Aylwin, as president

Kenneth MacMillan gives 20-year-old Darcy Bussell the leading role in his new full-length ballet, *The Prince of the Pagodas*

President Bush sends 24,000 US troops to occupy Panama City and seize Manuel Noriega

Nicolae Ceaușescu and his wife are captured and executed in a Romanian uprising

Alexander Dubcek is Speaker of Parliament and Václav Havel is President in the new democratic government of Czechoslovakia

1990

Panama's dictator, Manuel Noriega, is captured by US troops and taken to Miami on drug trafficking charges

South African president F.W. de Klerk announces his radical intention to end apartheid

The Sandinistas lose the Nicaraguan presidential election, with Daniel Ortega beaten into second place by Violeta Chamorro

Nelson Mandela is given an ecstatic reception on his release after twenty-six years in prison on Robben Island, near Cape Town

Racing Demon launches a trilogy on the British establishment by English playwright David Hare

British primatologist Jane Goodall publishes *Through a Window*, exposing violence and brutality in chimpanzees

The Hubble Space Telescope is launched from a space shuttle and goes into orbit 370 miles (600 km) above the earth

Danish choreographer Peter Martins becomes director of the New York City Ballet

The aged president, Félix Houphouët-Boigny, wins the Ivory Coast's first democratic elections

Aung San Suu Kyi's party wins an overwhelming victory in Burma's general election but the military refuse to hand over power

Aung San Ssu Kyi remains under house arrest, and is not released till 1995

A Catholic priest, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, is elected president of Haiti and begins a programme of reform

Namibia becomes independent with Sam Nujoma as president

The Conservative government's poll tax is greeted with violent riots in London and a campaign of non-payment

Alberto Fujimori and his newly formed Cambio 90 party win a surprise election victory in Peru

Gérard Depardieu plays the title role in *Cyrano de Bergerac*, based on the play by Edmond Rostand

Mikhail Baryshnikov and Mark Morris establish the White Oak Dance Project as a touring company

Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi transforms Inkatha into a political party, the Inkatha Freedom Party

Three tenors (Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo, Jose Carreras) sing at a concert in Rome to celebrate the World Cup

Boris Yeltsin, impatient with the pace of reform under Gorbachev, resigns from the Communist party

UK prime minister Margaret Thatcher, by now at odds with many in her cabinet, is

challenged in a leadership contest and loses

Iraqi troops cross the border into Kuwait and are soon in control of the whole country and its oil wells

Benazir Bhutto's government is dismissed on corruption charges and her party loses the resulting elections

Saddam Hussein announces the annexation of Kuwait, claiming it to have been historically part of Iraq

Mary Robinson is elected president of the republic of Ireland, the first woman to hold the post

Julia Roberts and Richard Gere star in *Pretty Woman*, directed by Garry Marshall

East and West Germany are united in a new Federal Republic of Germany

Irish author Brian Friel's play *Dancing at Lughnasa* has its premiere at the Abbey Theatre

The Sadler's Wells ballet company moves to Birmingham, to become the Birmingham Royal Ballet

An army of the Rwandan Patriotic Front crosses the border from Uganda to invade Rwanda

West Indian author Derek Walcott publishes *Omeros*, an epic poem of the Caribbean

Tim Berners-Lee, working at CERN in Geneva, publishes the first formal proposal for the World Wide Web

Russian dancer Irek Mukhamedov leaves the Bolshoi company to join the Royal Ballet in

London

The Piano Lesson is the second of August Wilson's plays to win a Pulitzer Prize

Singapore prime minister Lee Kuan Yew steps down after 31 years in office

John Major is elected leader of the Conservative party and succeeds Thatcher as UK prime minister

Solidarność leader Lech Walesa wins Poland's first free presidential election

1991

The Gulf War begins when Iraq fails to meet the UN deadline for withdrawal from Kuwait

Expelled from his own country, Saudi Arabia, Osama bin Laden moves to Sudan where he continues to develop al-Qaeda

With all Iraqi troops expelled from Kuwait by Allied tanks, President Bush declares a ceasefire in the Gulf War

A Tuareg uprising in Mali results in some 120,000 refugees fleeing the country

The incumbent president, Mathieu Kérékou, loses in Benin's first democratic election

Rajiv Gandhi is killed near Chennai, during an election campaign, by a suicide bomber on behalf of Tamil militants

As Ethiopian and Eritrean rebels approach Addis Ababa, the leader of the Dergue, Mengistu, flees the country

The rebel Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), led by Meles Zenawi, takes control in Ethiopia

Another cease-fire in Angola's bitter civil war brings another brief period of peace

Former Communist Boris Yeltsin is elected leader of the Russian Soviet Socialist Republic

Alan Bennett's play *The Madness of George III* is performed at the National Theatre in London

The break-up of Yugoslavia begins with a joint declaration of independence by two of its regions, Slovenia and Croatia

The US rock group Nirvana become the leading performers of grunge

Carl Lewis beats his own previous 100-metre world record, winning gold at the World Championships in Tokyo

Morocco and the Polisario end hostilities on the understanding that there will be a referendum in the Western Sahara

Canadian poet and novelist Michael Ondaatje publishes *The English Patient*

Tim Berners-Lee, using CERN computers, puts online the first website at <http://info.cern.ch>

Hutu youth militias, known as the Interahamwe, are formed in Rwanda to spearhead attacks on Tutsis

Boris Yeltsin foils a hard-line Communist coup against Mikhail Gorbachev, on holiday at the time in the Crimea

US sculptor Jeff Koons marries one of his favourite subjects, Italian porn star La Cicciolina

Jodie Foster and Anthony Hopkins star in the film *The Silence of the Lambs*

Macedonia follows the example of Slovenia and Croatia in proclaiming its independence from Yugoslavia

Civil war in Somalia topples the Marxist dictator Mohamed Siad Barre

Regeneration is the first volume of English author Pat Barker's trilogy of novels set during World War I

A man found frozen high in the Alps turns out to be a neolithic hunter from about 5000 years ago

A military coup in Haiti ousts the reforming president Jean-Bertrand Aristide

The Revolutionary United Front, led by Foday Sankoh, attacks Sierra Leone from bases in Liberia

The parliament in Bosnia-Herzegovina votes to secede from the crumbling Yugoslavia

Aung San Suu Kyi wins the Nobel Peace Prize for her courageous fight for democracy in Burma

Armenia declares its independence from the USSR, 70 years after it was annexed

The US spacecraft Galileo provides scientists with close-up photographs of two asteroids, Gaspia and Ida

Multiparty elections in Zambia result in a massive defeat for the long-serving president, Kenneth Kaunda

The Soviet region of Chechnya proclaims its independence from the USSR, calling itself the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria

Gong Li plays a concubine of a Chinese warlord in *Raise the Red Lantern*, directed by Zhang Yimou

A new party, the Islamic Salvation Front, seems certain to win the Algerian election – until the army intervenes

Three Soviet republics (Russia, Ukraine, Belarus) declare independence, leading to the formal disbanding of the USSR

A treaty signed in the Netherlands town of Maastricht establishes the European Union and prepares for the introduction of the euro

Paul Keating becomes prime minister of Australia after a Labor party leadership contest against Bob Hawke

Eight more Soviet Socialist republics vote to join the three founder members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

Kurds in northern Iraq achieves a measure of autonomy in a safe haven imposed by the UN

Mikhail Gorbachev resigns as president of the defunct USSR, handing power to Boris Yeltsin as president of the new Russian republic

1992

Algeria is plunged into a brutal civil war between a military junta and Muslim terrorists

US author Jane Smiley retells the Lear story in *A Thousand Acres*

Fighting intensifies between Serbs and Croats, Christians and Muslims, for territory within Bosnia-Herzegovina

Saw Maung resigns as Burma's dictator and is replaced by Than Shwe (who still heads the junta some 20 years later)

Riots follow the acquittal of four Los Angeles policemen charged with assaulting the African American Rodney King

Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic encourages ethnic cleansing by paramilitaries in Bosnia

A Land Acquisition Act enables Mugabe to purchase land compulsorily, abandoning the 'willing buyer, willing seller' principle agreed at Lancaster House

US-born Canadian author Carol Shields' novel *The Republic of Love* is set in her home town of Winnipeg

Yitzhak Rabin returns as prime minister of Israel after the Labour party wins a general election

Slobodan Milosevic is elected president of Yugoslavia (by now only Serbia and Montenegro)

The New York company Dance Theatre of Harlem tours South Africa, with the slogan 'Dancing Through Barriers'

After a single term as president of the Philippines, Corazon Aquino returns to private life

Eric Clapton's album *Unplugged* includes 'Tears in Heaven', mourning the death of his four-year-old son

David Mamet's play *Oleanna* dramatizes the ambiguities of sexual politics

Betty Boothroyd, a Labour MP, becomes the first woman Speaker of Britain's House of

Commons

Manuel Noriega, ex-president of Panama, is convicted in a US court of drug trafficking

US screenwriter Quentin Tarantino makes his debut as a director with *Reservoir Dogs*

Mohammad Najibullah, Russia's puppet ruler in Afghanistan, is finally overwhelmed in Kabul by the mujaheddin

The mujaheddin, after removing from power the Soviet-backed president Najibullah, proclaim an Islamic state

The Mabo Case in Australia establishes Aboriginal common law land rights

All the Pretty Horses is the first volume of US author Cormac McCarthy's trilogy set in Mexico

English poet Thom Gunn's *The Man with Night Sweats* deals openly with AIDS

Albanians in Kosovo proclaim independence, prompting increased Serb oppression

UNITA revives the Angolan civil war after the MPLA wins a decisive election victory

Democrat Bill Clinton beats incumbent George Bush and independent candidate Ross Perot in a three-cornered US presidential election

The UN sends troops to famine-stricken and war-torn Somalia

Charles and Diana, the Prince and Princess of Wales, announce that they have agreed to separate

1993

Czechoslovakia divides peacefully into the Czech and Slovak Republics

Steven Spielberg directs *Jurassic Park*, in which dinosaurs are cloned (and animated) to terrifying effect

Pablo Escobar, leader of the Medellin drugs cartel in Colombia, is cornered and shot

Apartheid ends in South Africa, after two thirds of white voters vote for its abolition in a referendum

English novelist Sebastian Faulks publishes *Birdsong*, set partly in the trenches of World War I

The Branch Davidians, members of a religious cult, burn to death in their Waco headquarters under siege by the FBI

Guinea's first democratic election is won by the incumbent president, Lansana Conté

US author A.R. Ammons publishes a book-length poem, *Garbage*, typed on narrow strips of adding-machine paper

The UN imposes sanctions because of Libya's refusal to cooperate in the Lockerbie air disaster enquiry

US author Annie Proulx wins major awards with her second novel, *The Shipping News*

Millennium Approaches, the first part of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, is premiered in London

US architect Ieoh Ming Pei completes his underground extension of the Louvre, surmounted by a glass pyramid

US tennis player Pete Sampras wins the first of his record-breaking seven Wimbledon singles titles

Vikram Seth publishes his novel *A Suitable Boy*, a family saga in post-independence India

The new federalist regime in Ethiopia cedes independence to Eritrea

Eduardo Paolozzi's vast bronze sculpture *The Wealth of Nations* is installed at South Kyle, near Edinburgh

Scottish author Irvine Welsh publishes his first novel, *Trainspotting*

Irish author Roddy Doyle publishes a novel that wins the Booker Prize, *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*

Work begins on China's ambitious and controversial Three Gorges Dam project

The Oslo Accords, brokered by the Norwegian government between the PLO and Israel, are seen as a breakthrough in the Middle East crisis

Rachel Whiteread's *Untitled (House)* is a concrete cast of the interior of a house in London's East End

President Habyarimana alienates Rwanda's Hutu Power extremists by coming to terms with the Rwandan Patriotic Front

Meeting in Washington, Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat accept the Oslo Accords, promising autonomy for Palestine within five years

Steven Spielberg directs a film of Thomas Keneally's novel *Schindler's Ark*, giving it the title *Schindler's List*

Melchior Ndadaye, the first Hutu president of Burundi, is killed by Tutsis within months of his election

Civil war in Burundi, between Hutus and Tutsis, follows the murder of the first Hutu president

After only three years in opposition, Benazir Bhutto wins a second term as prime minister of Pakistan

Liberal leader Jean Chrétien begins a 10-year spell as Canadian prime minister

Loyal troops storm the parliament in Moscow, ending a putsch against President Yeltsin

The separatist Bloc Québécois becomes (until losing seats in the next election) the official Opposition in the Canadian parliament

Chen Kaige directs *Farewell My Concubine*, depicting the devastating effect of the Cultural Revolution on some performers of Peking opera

Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk are jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their partnership in South Africa

UK and Irish premiers John Major and Albert Reynolds sign the Downing Street Declaration, a strategy for peace in Northern Ireland

Media magnate Silvio Berlusconi founds Forza Italia as a new centre-right political party in Italy

1994

Mayan Indians in Chiapas rebel in an armed uprising against the Mexican government

The Hutu government in Rwanda preaches genocide against Tutsis

Mullah Mohammed Omar, in Kandahar, forms a group devoted to fundamentalist Islam

and calls it Taliban (meaning students of the Qur'an)

Former prime minister Bettino Craxi leaves Italy to escape a gaol sentence for corruption

Sylvio Berlusconi's new party, Forza Italia, wins enough votes for him to head a coalition as prime minister

US and European troops are withdrawn from the UN force in turbulent Somalia

The Rwandan president, Juvenal Habyarimana, dies when his plane is shot down

Cyprian Ntayamira, the second Hutu president of Burundi, dies in the crash of the president of Rwanda's plane

The assassination of Rwandan president Juvenal Habyarimana sparks the outbreak of genocide

As many as 800,000 people die, most of them slashed to death with machetes, in three months of genocide in Rwanda

Tom Hanks stars in *Forrest Gump*, based on a novel by Winston Groom

A new constitution in South Africa guarantees equal rights to all citizens

South Africa's first non-racial election is won by the ANC with 63% of the vote

Nelson Mandela is sworn in as the first president of the new democratic South Africa

Brazilian driver Ayrton Senna dies when the steering column of his car shears during the San Marino Grand Prix

Hastings Banda, president since independence in 1964, is defeated in Malawi's first multiparty elections

Israel recognizes the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the representative body of the Palestinian people

The New Zealand government pays compensation to the Waikato tribe in the first of several settlements for land illegally seized

France's President Mitterrand and the British queen Elizabeth II together open the tunnel under the English Channel

The Italian film *Il Postino* brings poetry into the life of a postman who delivers mail to the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda

In his apostolic letter *Ordinatio sacerdotalis* John Paul II forbids even any discussion of the ordination of women

Mogadishu, the capital, is divided between two factions in Somalia's civil war

With apartheid ended, South Africa rejoins the Commonwealth of Nations

Trinidadian cricketer Brian Lara sets a new world record, scoring 501 not out when playing for Warwickshire against Durham

Italian architect Renzo Piano completes Kansai airport, on an artificial island in Osaka bay

President Clinton's bill to provide health insurance for all US citizens is defeated in Congress

Louis de Bernières publishes *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, a love story set in Italian-

occupied Cephalonia

After the genocide in Rwanda, the Rwandan Patriotic Front captures Kigali and replaces the Hutu government

Tony Blair wins the leadership of the Labour party, and sets about establishing what he calls New Labour

North Korean dictator Kim Il Sung dies and is succeeded by his son, Kim Jong Il

The IRA declares a cease-fire in Northern Ireland, a gesture followed a month later by Protestant paramilitaries

The return of Jean-Bertrand Aristide to Haiti, under UN protection, leads to a period of relative calm unusual in the republic

The fossilized skeleton of an *Ardipithecus* female, nicknamed Ardi and 4.4 million years old, is found in the Awash valley region of Ethiopia

Quentin Tarantino directs John Travolta and Bruce Willis in *Pulp Fiction*

Two leading members of Mexico's ruling party, Luis Donaldo Colosio and José Francisco Ruiz Massieu, are assassinated

Divorce is legalized in the republic of Ireland

Mike Newell directs the film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, starring Hugh Grant

Yasser Arafat, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin share the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to solve the Israel-Palestine problem

The Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and Hussein, the king of Jordan, sign a historic

peace agreement

More than a million Hutus, escaping from the backlash after the genocide in Rwanda, are in refugee camps in Zaire

After 18 years in the USA, living in Vermont, Alexander Solzhenitsyn returns to post-Communist Russia

Art, a play by French-born Iranian playwright Yasmina Reza, has its premiere in Berlin

German racing driver Michael Schumacher wins his first world championship title in Formula One

Riverdance, based on traditional Irish step dancing, is presented first as an entertainment in the Eurovision Song Contest

A devaluation of the Mexican peso leads to a sudden collapse in the local stock market

The collapse of Silvio Berlusconi's coalition brings to an end his short-lived first period as Italy's prime minister

Potholers discover the world's oldest known paintings in the Chauvet cave in southern France

Russian troops enter Chechnya to crush the armed separatist movement

1995

Sithole is arrested, on a charge of plotting to assassinate Mugabe, in a move widely seen as a way of keeping him out of the 1996 presidential election

Britain and Argentina come to an agreement concerning the future exploitation of oil around the Falkland Islands

Asian and African UN troops withdraw from Somalia, though the country is still in a state

of violent civil war

British mathematician Andrew Wiles publishes, in *Annals of Mathematics*, his proof of Fermat's Last Theorem

A massive bomb destroys federal buildings in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people

Ethiopians have their first experience of democracy in a free presidential election, won by Meles Zenawi

Jacques Chirac defeats the Socialist candidate, Lionel Jospin, in the French presidential election

British choreographer Matthew Bourne has a great success with his all-male *Swan Lake*

Bosnian Serbs massacre thousands of Bosnian Muslims after laying siege to the town of Srebrenica

Aung San Suu Kyi is released, and told that she can leave the country but will not be able to return

Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam organizes a Million Man March into Washington

US poet Philip Levine wins a Pulitzer Prize with his volume of poems *Simple Truth*

Bryan Singer directs the film *The Usual Suspects*, an intricate crime drama written by Christopher McQuarrie

The jury acquits O.J. Simpson of the murder of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman, after a trial lasting almost a year

British artist Tracey Emin causes a stir with *Everyone I Have Ever Slept With 1963-1995*

The US hosts peace talks in Dayton, Ohio, between Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia to end the Bosnian civil war

Yitzhak Rabin, after addressing a mass rally for peace in Tel Aviv, is killed by an Israeli assassin

Ken Saro-Wiwa, playwright and pro-democracy campaigner in Nigeria, is among a group hanged by the ruling junta

Mozambique joins the Commonwealth, as the first member not to have emerged from the British empire

An atmospheric probe, released from the US spacecraft Galileo, enters the atmosphere of the planet Jupiter

1996

Yasser Arafat is elected president of the new Palestinian National Authority

Mugabe is elected unopposed for a new six-year term as president

An IRA bomb at Canary Wharf shatters the fifteen-month ceasefire achieved after the Downing Street Declaration

Liberal leader John Howard heads the winning coalition in Australia's general election

Expelled from Sudan, Osama bin Laden moves to Afghanistan where he builds training camps for al-Qaeda

Microsoft founder Bill Gates, with a fortune of \$20 billion, is calculated to be the richest man in the world

The Stone of Scone is returned from Westminster to Scotland, exactly seven centuries after

its removal by Edward I

Benjamin Netanyahu leads the Likud party to victory in an Israeli election overshadowed by Palestinian suicide bombers

Archbishop Desmond Tutu chairs South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission

In the Wik Decision the Australian High Court gives strong support to Aboriginal land rights

Chris Ofili's painting *The Holy Virgin* is embellished with elephant dung

American painter Julian Schnabel turns his hand to film-making with *Basquiat*, a tribute to graffiti artist Jean-Michel Basquiat

Jerry Rawlings has a convincing electoral victory after seventeen years in power in Ghana

The British pop group Spice Girls sell millions of their first album, *Spice*, breaking all previous UK records

The divorce is finalized of Charles and Diana, the Prince and Princess of Wales

Russian troops withdraw from Grozny after a peace deal that leaves Chechnya with effective autonomy

Anthony Minghella directs *The English Patient*, a film based on the novel by Michael Ondaatje

The Taliban capture Kabul, driving out rival Afghan guerrilla groups

The Taliban hang ex-president Najibullah and his brother at Kabul's major traffic

intersection

Irish author Marina Carr's play *Portia Coughlin* is performed at the Abbey Theatre

A fatal variant CJD (Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease) is first identified in Britain, linked to BSE but capable of infecting humans

Bill Clinton wins re-election as US president, defeating Republican candidate Bob Dole

Benazir Bhutto is dismissed from government in Pakistan for a second time, again on corruption charges

The guerrilla groups in Guatemala sign a treaty which provides for them to become a recognized political party

Tupac Amaru guerrillas take 460 guests hostage at the Japanese ambassador's Christmas party in Lima, Peru

Dolly the Sheep is cloned in an epoch-making experiment at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh

1997

Deng Xiaoping dies and is succeeded by Jiang Zemin as China's leader

Ghanaian diplomat Kofi Annan is appointed secretary-general of the United Nations, becoming the first black African in the post

Thousands of Shia Muslims are massacred by the Taliban in Mazar-e-Sharif, in a brief spell before they are driven from the city

Former US Secretary of State James Baker undertakes the difficult task of trying to find a compromise between the Polisario and Morocco over Western Sahara

Tony Blair leads the Labour party to its greatest ever electoral victory, winning 418 seats at

Westminster

Danish choreographer Peter Schaufuss founds his own ballet company at Holstebro

After thirty-two years as the corrupt dictator of Zaire, Mobutu Sese Seko is driven out by Laurent Kabila

The civilian president of Sierra Leone, Ahmad Kabbah, is ousted in a military coup led by Johnny Koroma

James Cameron directs Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet in the film *Titanic*, based on the 1912 disaster

Fifteen years after the Falklands War there are 1700 British troops in the islands, guarding 2200 residents

In Canada's general election the Bloc Québécois lose their position as official opposition to the Liberal government

Hong Kong reverts to China with the end of Britain's 99-year lease of the New Territories

Irish author Martin McDonagh's play *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* is the first in a trilogy

Sojourner, a robot roving vehicle, detaches from Mars Pathfinder to analyse the surface of the planet

The name of Zaire is changed once again, reverting to the Democratic Republic of Congo

The Australian report *Bringing Them Home* confirms widespread forcible removal of Aboriginal children from their parents

Diana, the Princess of Wales, and her friend Dodi Fayed die after a car crash in Paris

The poems forming Ted Hughes's *Birthday Letters* describe his relationship with Sylvia Plath

A schoolboy wizard performs his first tricks in J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*

Mexico's ruling party, the PRI, loses control of the lower house for the first time in nearly seventy years

In his first year as a professional, US golfer Tiger Woods wins both the British Open and the US Masters

Frank Gehry wins world-wide attention with his design for the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao

Indian author Arundhati Roy publishes her first novel, *The God of Small Things*

The British film *The Full Monty* follows six unemployed steel workers in their transformation into male strippers

Bertie Ahern, leader of Fianna Fáil, becomes the prime minister (Taoiseach) of the republic of Ireland

Bob Dylan produces one of his finest albums, *Time out of Mind*

Larry Page and Sergey Brin, both Ph.D. students at Stanford University, register the domain name google.com

Elton John sings a revised version of *Candle in the Wind* in Westminster Abbey, as a tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales

In referenda held by the new Labour government, Scotland votes conclusively for devolution but Wales is lukewarm

The Real IRA, a splinter group of the Provisional IRA, declares its commitment to a continuing campaign of violence

The Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations is the first international attempt to reduce global warming

1998

President Clinton is emphatic: 'I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Ms Lewinsky.'

Nigerian forces expel Johnny Koroma from Freetown and reinstate Sierra Leone's elected civilian president, Ahmad Kabbah

Coastal erosion reveals Seahenge, a 4,000-year-old circle of oak posts in Norfolk

Two boys aged 11 and 13 fire on a school group in Jonesboro, Arkansas, killing four girls and a teacher

The drug Viagra wins government approval in the USA as a treatment for male impotence

The British architectural firm of Foster & Partners completes the Hong Kong International Airport

Steven Spielberg directs Tom Hanks in *Saving Private Ryan*, a World War II drama about a US paratrooper

A proposed referendum on northern Irish issues is accepted by all the relevant political parties in what becomes known as the Good Friday Agreement

A UN peacekeeping force takes responsibility for maintaining order in the Central African

Republic

Civil war breaks out again in the Congo, after a Tutsi uprising against Laurent Kabila's government

In the referendum to endorse the Good Friday Agreement, the terms are accepted by majorities in both the republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland

Anthony Gormley's massive metal *Angel of the North* is erected near Gateshead in northern England

President Suharto is finally forced to resign, after more than 30 corrupt and embezzling years as Indonesia's dictator

Bitter and devastating warfare breaks out again between Eritrea and Ethiopia as the result of a border dispute

The Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble becomes First Minister of the newly convened Northern Ireland Assembly

Neighbouring African nations, with an interest in Congo's mineral wealth, take part on both sides in a developing civil war

The TV quiz *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?*, hosted by Chris Tarrant, has its first transmission in the UK

Violent gangs, calling themselves the Mugabe War Veterans Association, start to 'liberate' more than 100,000 sq km of white-owned farmland in Zimbabwe

Michael Frayn's play *Copenhagen* dramatizes the visit of Werner Heisenberg to Niels Bohr in wartime Denmark

The Akashi Kaikyo Bridge, linking Shikoku and Honshu in Japan, creates a new record as

the longest suspension bridge

224 deaths in simultaneous attacks on US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania are linked to al-Qaeda

The Taliban recapture Mazar-e-Sharif, giving them control of 90% of Afghanistan

A sudden collapse of the Brazilian stock market follows the earlier slump in the Asian markets

The Real IRA kills 26 people and injures about 200 with a bomb planted in Omagh, in northern Ireland

President Clinton admits to having had an inappropriate relationship with Monica Lewinsky

US cruise missiles attack al-Qaeda bases in Afghanistan and a suspected chemical factory in Khartoum

John Madden directs *Shakespeare in Love*, a romantic comedy set in Elizabethan London

SPD leader Gerhard Schröder replaces Helmut Kohl as German chancellor, in a coalition with the Green party

Civil war begins in Kosovo with a guerrilla campaign by Albanians in the Kosovo Liberation Army

Augusto Pinochet, visiting Britain from Chile for medical treatment, is arrested on an extradition request from a Spanish judge

The European Court of Human Rights replaces a preceding part-time court in Strasbourg

Steps are taken to end Sudan's fifteen-year civil war, with an undated government promise of a referendum in the south

Brutal reprisals by Serb troops against Albanians in Kosovo include systematic ethnic cleansing

The first module is launched of the International Space Station, a cooperative venture by five space agencies (USA, Russia, Japan, Canada, Europe)

The US relinquishes sovereignty over the canal zone to Panama on the last day of the century, as agreed in the 1977 treaty

Chromosome 22 becomes the first human genome to be fully sequenced, at the Sanger Institute in Cambridge, England